

Dear Friends,

Thank you for viewing this powerful message on hurt, hope, and healing. Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. It is not supported or encouraged by the Bible or Emmanuel Church. If you are contemplating suicide or any other form of self-harm, please call the following phone numbers for immediate assistance:

988—Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Emergency Number

911—Local Emergency Assistance

To provide further information and a biblical perspective on suicide, please read the following:

- Definition: Suicide is to purposefully take one's own life out of misdirected self-love. The term "suicide" was coined in 1651 and literally means "self" (sui) "to kill" (cide).
- There are roughly 29,000 successful suicides in the United States each year, compared to 19,000 murders.
- Some may wrongly argue that suicide ought to be allowed, as a right, if one's body is viewed as one's own property.
 - Our bodies are not our own (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).
 - As image bearers, human beings live in community. As such, suicide grieves those left behind, as well as producing guilt and strained relationships.
 - Encouraging suicide communicates that there is no answer to despair and no comfort in affliction. This is the opposite of what the Gospel promises.

Toward a Christian perspective:

- Suicide is not the unpardonable sin; however, suicide is sinful (cf. Matthew 12:31–32; Mark 3:28–29).
- Reasons why suicide is wrong:
 - Suicide is a sin against God as the creator and sustainer of life. It rejects God's sovereignty and usurps his prerogative in regard to life and death (cf. Job 12:10).
 - Suicide is a violation of the sixth commandment (cf. Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17).
 - Suicide disregards the image of God and the sanctity of human life (cf. Genesis 1:26–27; 9:5–6).
 - Suicide is poor stewardship of one's body (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

- Suicide demonstrates misdirected love and is injurious to others (cf. Matthew 22:36–39; Ephesians 5:29).
- Suicide overlooks the value of human suffering (cf. Romans 5:3–5; 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:17–18; 12:10).
- Believers are called to suffer with Christ (cf. Romans 8:17).
- The present life is not one of earthly glory and conquest. Believers are called to have joy and hope in the midst of current trials, looking forward to the age to come.
- Suicide fails to recognize the unnatural nature of death (cf. Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).
- Jesus refused to commit suicide and Paul prevented it (cf. Matthew 4:5–6; Luke 4:9–11; Acts 16:27–28).

Thank you for taking the time to view the video message and consider what the Bible has to say about matters of life and death. Jesus said, *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”* (John 10:10 NLT).

There is hope for you in Jesus!

Pastor Rick

