

Suicide = The Ultimate Sin..... or not

Throughout the years, many have described suicide as the “Ultimate Sin”, yet this is something that is not biblical and must be corrected. How many times does the word “ultimate” appear in the Bible? Many would say that it is in the Bible when we describe Jesus – He paid the “ultimate” sacrifice. Although those words are spoken by man, they are not written in the Bible. Actually, according to the Strong’s Concordance, the word “ultimate” does not appear in the Bible at all; not one single time.

It is sad that many have taken words that have been spoken from generation to generation and made them as reliable as God’s word, but we need to challenge what has been accepted as the truth and confirm it in the Word of God – our Bible.

What the Bible does say in 1 John 2:1-2 is:

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”



Jesus is our advocate for sin. For we all will sin and fall short and there is no single sin that God has defined as “ultimate”.

Many argue that suicide is the ultimate sin because you don’t have a chance to repent for it. Read the following story and decide if you feel that is true.

A single mother with three school-aged children was getting her children ready for the upcoming school year. She received the supply list from her children and the list was very large and would be very expensive for her to purchase them all. Since she was a secretary for a pretty large car dealership, she was responsible for receiving many of the office supplies that came in. Recently, a large shipment of paper came in to the office. She knew that there was already more than enough paper at the office, so she decided that instead of buying the 2 reams of paper that each child needed, she would just take 6 from the box that just arrived at her office. She felt in her gut that she shouldn’t take the paper and her supervisor told her that there was a strict policy against taking work supplies for personal use, but she knew that taking the paper would save her a lot of cash that she could use for the other supplies. She took 2 reams of paper to her car during each of her breaks. At the end of the day, she had the 6 reams of paper that she would need for her children.

At the end of the day, while driving in a construction zone, this mother slowed down to allow a cement truck to enter the roadway. Behind her was a distracted driver in an 18-wheeler, heading full-speed towards her without noticing the stopped traffic. The driver never hit their brakes and by the time he approached her vehicle, he crashed into her car, pushing her vehicle into the cement truck, instantly killing her.

She did not have time to repent for the paper that she took from work. She stole the paper. That was a sin.

Does this mother have additional Grace extended upon her because her death was not her fault? No. Should God have more mercy on her because she was a single parent trying to do for her children? No. She and a person who takes their own life are extended the same Grace. Sin is the description of actions we decide to take, thoughts we decide to think, feelings we decide to have. When Jesus died for us, He died for ALL sin. His mercy allows us to be free from our sin and his grace keeps us close to him.

Grace is much different than **Mercy**:

- **Mercy** is NOT getting the bad that we deserve. (death)
- **Grace** is getting good that we do not deserve. (eternal life, plus all the good that God wants to give us)

God tells us to love Him with all of our heart, soul and mind and He instructs us to love one another (John 13:34, Matt 22:38). Holding a grudge, harboring hate in our hearts, and unforgiveness is sin (LEV 19:18), just as murder and robbery are sin. The good news is that Jesus died for our sins – past, present and future! He knew that we would continue to sin because we were born into a sinful world and his blood extended us the Grace that allows us NOT to perish.

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

It does not say, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish ... unless you commit the ultimate sin of suicide.”

We cannot understand what would make someone take their lives, but for many, the fear of living may be stronger than the fear of dying. There could be mental illness, chemical imbalance or genetics that factor in the decision for suicide. Regardless of the reason a person has for taking their own life, the final judge of our life choices is our heavenly Father. As a church, we must not become that judge while here on Earth.

If you believe the myth – Suicide is the Ultimate Sin – it makes it difficult for you to know what to say to a fellow brother or sister in Christ who loses a loved one to suicide. During that time of loss, we must be there to comfort and help during the grieving process. As Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”. Our goal must be to bring each other up and provide the needed support in the time of need.



Ministering to someone who has lost a loved one to suicide should be the same as ministering to someone who has died from an illness – treat them with love, respect and comfort. “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.” (Matt 7:12)

If you lost a loved one, you would want to have someone to show you kindness, extend a helping hand, send a card, talk about good memories of your loved one and many other things that show true love and care for each other.