

SEVEN SIMPLE REASONS TO REJECT SUICIDE

BY REV. ABIA F. ABIA

Suicide is the act of taking one's life by whatever means and for whatever reason.

The rate at which it is occurring today is most alarming and most concerning. It is not a problem of the poor. Wealthy individuals also commit suicide. It is also not a problem of under developed countries. Developed nations even experience the menace more than their under developed counterparts.

The world must not fold her arms and watch this scourge as it wastes lives and devastates families, communities, and nations.

First, suicide serves no useful purpose whatever to the suicider. The suicider cannot return to life to evaluate his act to see whether it served him or anybody else any useful purpose. But anyone contemplating suicide can judge from previous cases that no useful purpose has ever been served by the act. Suicide only ends a useful life, it has no usefulness of its own to offer the suicider.

Second, suicide is a loss to the suicider. It is the suicider who suffers the greatest loss in the act. The suicider loses his life, what he accomplished already and what he could have accomplished if he lived on. And what a suicider loses is permanent, it cannot be retrieved. A suicider is mistaken to think that he is causing loss to someone else or that he is gaining for himself anything by taking his life. There is practically nothing to gain from taking one's life. On the contrary, suicide is a complete waste of one's precious life.

Third, there is no justification whatever for suicide. The reasons left behind by suiciders are usually untenable. There can be no convincing, valid, rational, good or satisfying reason for taking one's life. If there are issues prompting someone to begin to contemplate suicide, those issues would not be addressed to anyone's satisfaction if suicide takes place. Ending one's life does not resolve any of the issues that led one to the act. The only proper or rational thing for anyone having thoughts of suicide to do is to seek good counseling concerning the issues troubling him. Even where there are no satisfying answers to issues troubling someone, this does not justify taking one's life.

Fourth, suicide is not the better choice, by whatever standard. On the contrary, it is actually a terrible choice. The one who chooses to terminate his life instead of living it out makes a bad choice. It is better to live out one's life than end it. When people die naturally, we wish they had lived on. We feel the same way for those who take their own lives. It is better to choose to live than to choose to take one's life. There is no life that is worth terminating. It is better that each life is lived out to the fullest, challenges notwithstanding. Choosing to live remains the better choice to choosing to take one's life.

Fifth, suicide is not an effective solution to the issues that lead to it. Individuals who end up taking their own lives face one issue or the other. But taking one's life is not an effective way to address an issue. There are numerous effective ways to address the issues of life. Taking one's life is not one of those ways. The right thing to do for those facing life challenges is to get those challenges sorted out satisfactorily. Suicide cannot be considered an effective solution to the challenges of life.

Sixth, suicide is a cowardly act. Instead of facing the challenges of life courageously, the suicider succumbs to their pressure by taking his life. It is like a well armed soldier in a war

surrendering himself to an unarmed enemy soldier to kill him with his bare hands. A courageous soldier who is well armed will certainly fight his way to victory. Similarly, a courageous person will persevere and not take his life in spite of the challenges he faces.

Finally, Suicide is simply murder. And God categorically forbids murder (Exod. 20:13). Some mistakenly think that they have the right over their lives to take them. They are wrong. Life is sacred, and no one has the right to take it, even if it is his own. We Christians believe that murder is an intolerable sin before God (Exod. 20:123) and that the murderer has no place in God's Kingdom (Rev. 21:8). The fact that one does not believe in Jesus Christ will not exempt him from accounting for his acts while he was alive (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15).

CONCLUSION

Suicide is one of life's phenomena that cannot be justified at all. The lives that have ended in suicide have simply been wasted. One wishes that those lives were lived to the full and never terminated. There is nothing whatever to be gained from suicide.

If anyone is nursing thoughts of suicide, it is better to throw such thoughts away completely. The issues or challenges that make one to contemplate taking his life can all be satisfactorily addressed. It is better to seek help for the challenges one is facing than take one's life on their account. Each life is most precious before man and God. No life is worth wasting away through suicide. Life is worth everything. Suicide is worth nothing.

Whatever challenges one may face in life, there is real satisfaction and hope in Jesus Christ. Instead of taking one's own life, once can find true satisfaction and hope if he casts all his anxieties on Him (1 Pet. 5:7).