

## VIRAL WEEK 3 – IF A CHRISTIAN COMMITS SUICIDE, IS HE/SHE STILL SAVED (ROMANS 8:38-39)

## GETTING STARTED

**KEY POINT THIS WEEK:** For the person who has been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, nothing in all creation can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

- How have you heard people define or explain the unpardonable sin?
- In what ways have you been impacted by the effects of suicide (immediate family, extended family, close friend, co-worker, etc.)?

When my brother took his life 4 years ago, I became more aware of how suicide has touched so many of us. Almost everyone I talked with had been impacted through the loss of an immediate or extended family member or friend. People don't grasp how serious this issue is and more importantly they don't understand the depth of God's mercy and grace. Allow these sobering statistics from 2016 to help bring this issue out of the shadows and into the light.

- An American dies by suicide every 12 minutes (117 per day) (43,000 each year)
- Americans attempt suicide an estimated 1 MILLION times annually
- 90% of those who die by suicide had a diagnosable and treatable psychiatric disorder at the time of their death
- Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States
- 2nd leading cause of death for ages 44 and under
- 5th leading cause of death for ages 45-54

## DISCUSSION

Pastor John referenced a number of passages to respond to this week's question: *If a Christian commits suicide, is he/she still saved?* He also provided insight into the biblical definition of the "unpardonable sin".

In your discussions this week, use the following passages (and others) to support the truth that suicide is not the unpardonable sin that leads to spiritual death and separation from God for eternity.

Romans 8:37-39

John 3:16

1 John 5:11-13

John 3:18

1 Samuel 16:7

John 8:44

1 Peter 1:3-9

Discuss why the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was specific to the Pharisees' rejection of Jesus and cannot be duplicated today. (Matthew 12:22-37, Mark 3:20-30)

What is the only “unpardonable” sin today?

Who do you need to share the Good News with this week to remind them of God's love?

## PRAYER

As we intercede for one another, look for opportunities to pray these truths into the hearts and minds of those who know Christ as Savior.

### I AM ACCEPTED

- I am a brand plucked out of the fire (Zechariah 3:2)
- I am a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12)
- I am Christ's friend, he calls me by name, and my name is written in heaven (John 15:15)
- I have been justified freely by his grace, therefore I have peace with God (Romans 5:1)
- I am a heir of God, joint-heir with Christ (Galatians 4:7)
- I have been bought and paid for by Christ, redeemed from the enemy (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- I am included with the saints (Ephesians 1:1)
- I have been adopted into God's family (Ephesians 1:5)
- I have been seated with Christ in heavenly places above Satan's power (Ephesians 2:6)
- I have direct access to God (Ephesians 2:18)
- I have been translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Colossians 1:13)
- I have been redeemed to God and forgiven (Colossians 1:14)

### I AM SECURE

- I am not condemned before the throne (Romans 8:1-2)
- I know all things work together for me because I am called to his purpose (Romans 8:28)
- I am free of all accusations of the enemy. No one lays any charge on God's elect (Romans 8:31)
- I cannot be separated from God's love by anything (Romans 8:35)
- I have been sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:20-22)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)
- I am confident God will complete the work he began in me (Philippians 1:6)
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- I have been given a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- I have boldness before the throne of God (Hebrews 4:16)
- I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)

### I AM SIGNIFICANT

- I am salt and light in this world (Matthew 5:13-14)
- I am a branch on the True Vine (John 15:1, 5)
- I have been chosen to bear fruit that remains (John 5:16)
- I am a witness to the reality of Christ (Acts 1:8)
- I am a temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells in me (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- I am God's co-worker (2 Corinthians 6:1)
- I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- I am God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:10)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)
- I have Christ in me. Greater is he in me than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4)