

INTRODUCTION: THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

A. SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH (Rom.1:19f; 2:14f)

B. RUINED BY SIN (Rom.1:21f; Eph.4:17)

C. EXCHANGED FOR LIES (Rom.1:23f)

D. RECOVERED IN REVELATION & REDEMPTION

1. created in the image of God (Gen.1:26; see Ps.8:5; 139:13f)
2. protected as the image of God (Gen.9:6; Jms.3:9)
3. protected by the law of God (Ex.20:13; Mt.5:21)
4. saved by the self-sacrifice of The Image of God (Rom.5:10; see Col.2:9; 2Cor.4:4-6)

FOCUS: SUICIDE

A. DEFN: SELF-MURDER (see *homicide, geriatricide, pesticide, genocide, infanticide* (partial birth abortion); *feticide* (abortion))

B. EXPLICIT PROHIBITION: 6TH COMMANDMENT (Ex.20:13; Dt.5:17; Mt.5:21; 19:18; Mk.10:19; Lk.18:20; Rom.13:9; Jms.2:11; 4:2; see Mt.22:39; see SC,67-69; LC,134-136)

C. IMPLICIT PROHIBITIONS (see Mt.22:37-39)

1. sovereign "copy" right (Gen.9:6; see Job 1:21; 2:9,10; Ps.116:15; Eccl.8:8; Rom.14:7-9; 1Cor.6:19)
2. mutual duty (1Cor.12:25; Eph.4:25)
3. personal duty (Acts 16:28; Eph.5:29)

D. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF SUICIDE

1. Abimelech (Jdgs.9:54)
2. Samson (Jdgs.16:30; not?)
3. Zimri (1Kngs.16:18)
4. Saul & his armor-bearer (1Sam.31:4f)
5. Ahithophel (2Sam.17:23)
6. Judas (Mt.27:5; see Acts 1:18)
7. Summary: the bad end of a bad road (context of meaning)

E. CHRISTIAN HISTORY

1. all revealed (Abrahamic) and natural (dharmic) religions reject legitimacy of suicide
2. only pagan self-deifying religions claim this authority (e.g., Roman)
3. early Christians: suicide vs. rape (see Jdgs.9:54; 1Sam.31:4; 1Kngs.16:18; *contra* Esther)
4. Augustine, Aquinas: necessarily the fruit of unbelief (see 1Jn.2:19; see Mt.12:31; Lk.17:3)
 - a. *general* repentance & renewed *life* (Acts 2:38; 11:18; *conversion*)
 - b. *specific* repentance & renewed *blessing* (Mt.18:15; Lk.17:3; see 1Cor.3:15; *sanctification*)
5. felony; excommunication: forfeiture of all goods; all church privileges (e.g., normal burial)

F. MODERN ERRORS

1. abortion: my body vs. distinctly personal human life (see Ps.139:13f; 51:5)
2. suicide: my life vs. create, conceive, deliver, sustain (redeem, sanctify) (see Ps.139:13f,16; 71:6; Heb1:3; 1C6:19; Rm14:7)
3. note: doctor assisted suicide is accessory to murder
4. summary: rebellion against sovereignty of God over human life (Rm.1:20; see Job 1:21; 1Pt5:10; 1C.10:13; 2C.12:9)

G. MODERN DILEMMAS

1. take your life in selfishness vs. give your life in service (Mk.10:45; Jn.15:13)
2. death according to our will vs. death according to God's will (2Kngs.13:14(vs.Jn.11:4); Mt.27:50; Lk.23:46(Ps.31:5); Jn.10:18; 19:30; 1Pt.2:23; apply *WCF*,24,6)

H. ASSURANCE FOR PERSEVERANCE (Mt.28:20; Lk.9:23; Rom.8:35f; 1Cor.10:13; 2Cor.1:4; 12:7f; 1Pt.2:21; 4:1,12f,19; 5:6-11; Heb.13:5; Ps.23; 42,43; see Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*)

CONCLUSION: FAITH & HOPE & LOVE VS. SUICIDE (see 1Pt.5:10; 1Cor.10:13; 2Cor.12:9)