

PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 1 – Issue 20 – 2 March 2008

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

I AM GOING TO KILL MYSELF

Imagine for a moment that you received a call from me 3:00 one morning. I sound very different. I am crying. You shake out the cobwebs as I ramble on through tears.

After running down a laundry list of problems in my life, I tell you plainly, **“I have had all of this life that I care to have. I am going to follow in the steps of my dad. I am going to kill myself. I am going to go take my 9mm pistol from my dresser drawer, put in the clip, load a bullet into the chamber, and shoot myself in the head.”**

Do you get the picture? Your brother in Christ is ready to take his own earthly life and end up in hell over the matter! My soul hangs in the balance. What to do? What not to do? Hopefully, you would never:

- Say, “Hey, I’ve got to be at work in a little while, I’ll call you tomorrow,” and hang up on me.
- Say, “Scott I would like to help, but why don’t you call brother ‘XYZ’ instead?”
- Adopt an “it’s no big deal” attitude; reasoning that all contemplate suicide from time to time.
- Realize that I am, indeed, in grave danger, but decide to wait until sometime next week to help me.

Conversely, if thrust into the scenario above, I surely hope that you would:

- Put all earthly cares aside and listen attentively; giving me all the time I need.
- Never pawn me off to another – after all, I called you!
- Never minimize the situation, realizing that suicide is a very “big deal.”
- Offer immediately to come across town to meet with me so as to help save my life.

Now you may be asking yourself, “What’s the point of all this?” Here’s the point: reasonable, caring folks don’t treat suicide lightly. Yet, it is just a sad fact that some members of the body of Christ take a cavalier attitude towards brethren who are committing spiritual suicide. Far too often the same people who sing “Rescue the Perishing” stand by and watch as their brethren murder their own souls. Allow me to illustrate:

- Sister “A” hears sister “B” gossiping after the Sunday assembly. She knows full well that her sister is pulling the trigger on her spiritual life (**1 Peter 4:15**), but she is hungry and the best seats at the restaurants will be taken in a little while. Thus, she says nothing.
- Sister “B” suspects that brother “C” is trying to “run the church.” If she is right, he is committing spiritual suicide. Rather than talking to brother “C” (**Matthew 18:15**) she says nothing.
- Most of the brethren know that there is a false teacher in their local congregation. They say they realize the danger of sin in the camp (**1 Corinthians 5:6; Romans 16:17-18**). They say they understand that the false teacher is playing “Russian Roulette” (**2 John 9**). Yet, they wait two months, or two years, to do anything about it. Folks, two days is too long to wait (**Proverbs 27:1; Galatians 2:5**).

Are you one who helps people commit spiritual suicide? Are you assisting people in their journey to hell? If so, please let the following words sink deep: *“When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require at thine hand**”* (**Ezekiel 3:18**).