



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

The Center For Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta tells us that there is an epidemic raging in this country. It's taking the lives of hundreds of our teenagers every day. No it isn't AIDS. It is teen suicide. The statistics tell us that 100 teens per day take their own lives. The CDC states that that figure is only one eighth of the real numbers. Reality says that 800 plus teens take their lives everyday here in America. That is a staggering figure. The reason that the numbers are askew is the simple fact that the stigma of suicide is hidden by calling these deaths as accidental, overdoses, car accidents, mishap with guns and whatever other "explanations" that are given so as to hide the hurt to the hundred of people that each suicide affects.

The major cause is rooted in that insidious demon called FEAR. The most intolerable aspect is the "fear of being alone". No center of security, hope, or trust will certainly insure that a child fears being alone. Sadly though, suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

Being alone is not the same dynamic in everyone's life. Some folks enjoy living by themselves. Some people exist in an environment that causes them to be by them selves and they quite like it that way. I will never forget an encounter I had years ago with a fellow we will call Steve. Steve had to be one of the most obnoxious individuals I have ever met in my entire lifetime. He had nothing kind to say about anyone or anything. Trying to maintain a business relationship was almost impossible. Steve was the most disagreeable person I had ever met.

The upcoming Sunday was my time to give the message at our church and I had decided to speak to people's fears. I asked just about everyone I encountered what their greatest fear would be. Oh I got the usual answers; fear of losing a job, fear of losing a child, fear of losing a spouse, fear of losing a parent, fear of losing their savings and investments etc. I happened by Steve's desk that faced the window where he watched for customers. I thought to myself that I would just ask Steve what his greatest fear would be.

"Steve ", I said, "I am doing a message on fear this weekend and I've been asking several folks around here as to what their greatest fear would be. What is your greatest fear?" Steve turned to me with a look that I had never seen in him. He had tears in his eyes as he said, "Oh that's an easy one; the fear of being alone." No sooner had a series of thoughts ran through my mind, Steve said, "And I know exactly what you are thinking. You are thinking that I do everything possible to insure that I will be alone." I agreed that was the exact thought I had. Steve continued, "You don't understand what being alone actually means to me. I have no problem being by myself without anyone around. Being "alone" to me is the net result of entering into a relationship with someone and having it fail and they abandon me. THEN I am alone."

I was completely bowled over. My heart ached for Steve because he had to engineer constant drama in his life to insure that he entered into no relationship where he might be abandoned. That isn't sad, that's pitiful. I just couldn't believe the lesson I had learned from the biggest jerk I had ever know.

I knew a bit of what he was talking about. I had had an experience several years before that left me feeling very alone as well. But there was a dynamic in my life that pulled me through it. And that was my relationship with my heavenly Father.

We are NEVER alone. He is with us every moment. He told the Hebrews, "I am the Lord thy God who is with you always. I am Jehovah Shammah". He tells us in His word that he "will never leave you or forsake you". This statement occurs several times in scripture.

Now you can "leave" someone and not "forsake" them. If you drop your child off at day care, you have "left" them but you'll return later and pick the child up. The word "forsake" means to abandon and never return. There is no attempt to care for that child's wellbeing.

Our Father is so adamant about that promise that when Jesus was resurrected he told His disciple that He could not leave until the Comforter (The Holy Spirit) comes. Jesus would not leave his disciples until the third presence of the Trinity arrived, thus, never leaving us alone. We are in the presence of God constantly through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We can take solace in the fact that He is here at all times. Through the good times and the bad, He is here. We never have to fear His abandonment because He has promised to supply our needs. Although Jesus left earth to go to heaven, He waited until the presence of the Holy Spirit came to minister to our needs. We have not been abandoned because He said that He would go to prepare a place for us.

We are never alone!!

And that's....The Gospel Truth!!

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Visit Pat's website at www.maizeone.com

For information on the awareness and prevention of teen suicide
www.jasonfoundation.com