

"in Adam", separated from God, we can be born again "in Christ"(1 Cor 15:22). Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3). God did not just create people to grow old and die. There is a purpose to life which extends beyond the grave and into eternity - but it all begins with being reconciled to God. How can we be reconciled?—by-- "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21). In love, the Creator came into His creation to die on the cross, taking the judgment for our sins upon Himself; we are saved by God's grace (undeserved favour) through faith in Jesus alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). And Jesus rose from the dead (1 Cor 15:4) to offer eternal life to all who trust in Him (John 3:16).

Death is not the end; suicide is not the answer. Life does have meaning, and it is ONLY in this life that we have the opportunity to trust in Christ: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:27-28).

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suicide

AND EVOLUTION

WHAT does suicide have to do with evolution? Consider this testimony by a man suffering from depression and contemplating suicide:

*"Hi, my name is Gerard. I'm just a bit concerned by the tendency of the medical profession and society in general to want to put a label on us as depressive people and therefore that there's something wrong with us. I think that some people may have an inability to cope, and **maybe this might sound a bit extreme, but that might be Darwinian theory, the Darwin theory of survival of the fittest. Maybe some of us aren't meant to survive, maybe some of us are meant to kill ourselves** because the only people that really suffer are the ones left behind, but the person who kills themself may in fact be liberated from this body."*

[Life Matters, ABC Radio National, 04/05/2000]

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Obviously this man Gerard saw a connection between suicide and evolution. As a member of the audience during this broadcast of the ABC's *Life Matters*, he went on to say:

"There's too many people in the world as it is. Maybe it is survival of the fittest, maybe some of us are meant to just give up, and maybe that would help the species."

Of course, there are many factors that may contribute to someone deciding to take their own life. But these quotes illustrate how people who are suffering from depression may be influenced by evolutionary thinking to actually *contemplate suicide*, as if it might be for the "evolutionary good" of the human species. *This kind of talk makes you wonder whether belief in "evolution" might actually be a contributing cause of depression in the first place.*

Such an idea is not as far-fetched as it may seem, especially when you consider some of the implications of believing in the theory of evolution:

- Millions of years ago, life just happened by accident
- I only exist because of time and chance
- I am just an animal
- There is no God, no absolute truth
- There is no such thing as right and wrong
- There is no moral purpose or meaning to life
- Death and suffering are just a normal part of life
- There is no life after death

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The list could go on. But it's enough to show how depressing an evolutionary worldview can be, and how when times get tough, many are tempted to take "the easy way out". Each year, according to the *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, well over 2,000 Australians commit suicide. In 1997 alone, 2,723 Australians committed suicide; 2,146 were males.

Again, while there may be many contributing causes, the fact remains that belief in evolution offers no moral purpose for life and no hope beyond the grave. Death is merely seen as a way out, on the assumption that it will put an end to misery and suffering. But is this a valid assumption? And why is there misery and suffering in the first place? The Bible has the answers...

God is a good and loving God who created a *perfect* universe (Genesis 1:31). In the beginning, the first two humans, Adam and Eve, were created *perfectly*, in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). There was no sin, no suffering, no millions of years of "evolution". There was no death – Adam and Eve, as well as all the animals, ate only plants (Genesis 1:29-30). Most importantly, Adam and Eve enjoyed close, intimate fellowship with their Creator. Everything was *perfect*.

But it did not stay that way for long – Adam's sin brought death into the world for the very first time: "*as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men...*" (Romans 5:12). Adam and Eve became sinners, *separated* from God (Genesis 3). In fact, not just people but ALL of creation was corrupted by sin and death (Romans 8:22) – *this* was the origin of misery and suffering that has continued to this day. But there is still hope – even though we were born

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