

BULLICIDE MUST STOP

By

Dean Feldmeyer

Asher Brown was thirteen years old.

So was Seth Walsh.

Justin Aaberg was fifteen. Tyler Clementi was eighteen and Billy Lucas was fifteen.

All five of these teenage boys and about 450 others just like them committed suicide in the past twelve months. They all had two things in common.

They were gay. And they were bullied.

In fact, they were bullied to death. They were harassed, abused, called names, screamed at, pushed around, beaten up, and, let's call it what it is, tortured, until they couldn't take it anymore and they killed themselves.

Call it bullicide.

Somehow we have communicated to our teenagers – boys especially – that the gay people in this country are so out of the mainstream, so low, so worthless that it is okay to do to them anything you like. You can treat them badly, beat them up, belittle them and abuse them for no other reason than your own amusement. And you can do it with impunity.

Then we unleash our teen bullies on those gay kids and sit back and say and do nothing until the victims are so afraid that they would rather die, literally die, than go to school.

And die, they do.

According to a study done by the United States government gay teens are about 3-4 times more likely to attempt suicide than straight teens. And it's not because they're gay, it's because they are being tortured and harassed by bullies.

School administrators, police, prosecutors, judges and even gay activists wring their hands and argue about a solution to this problem but we Christians know the solution. We have just been too timid, too afraid, too cowardly enact it.

Well the time has come to act. This bullying of our children has got to stop and we are the ones who are going to stop it. We Christians are going to act as pioneers and lead this country to a new understanding of who we are and how we behave.

First, we are going to promise ourselves and each other that we will never use the word faggot or any other derogatory word or name for gay. Ever.

Then, not only are we not going to use those words, we are not going to tolerate their use by others in our presence.

And then, we are going to blaze a new trail, a trail of tolerance and charity and love and compassion – yeah, just like Jesus – and we're going to lead the rest of our brothers and sisters down that trail.

Maybe then, instead of taking their own lives, our gay teens will realize that there are people, Christian people, people they can talk to, who love them and care about them and want to see them live fully and wholly and happily.