

In a popular tabloid, Elizabeth Taylor was once quoted as saying, "God knows I have tried: I have tried fame, food, men, drugs and drink, but I have never found peace." The story continues, stating that as Taylor looked at her sleeping mother so very near death, she said sadly, "Maybe death is the only peace."

Elvis Presley was asked by a reporter, six weeks before he died, "Elvis, when you started playing music, you said you wanted three things in life: you wanted to be rich, you wanted to be famous, and you wanted to be happy. Are you happy, Elvis?"

Presley replied, "No, I am as lonely as hell."

It seems that riches, fame, so-called friends, and even youth and health do not necessarily bring peace and happiness. Elizabeth Taylor and Elvis Presley had all of the above, except for peace and happiness!

And they are not the exception. The world is full of rich and famous people who are miserable and lonely. The number of people committing suicide, most of them young, in the prime of their lives, is ever increasing. Loneliness and depression are the most frequently diagnosed problems. The poor and the sick are not the only ones affected by loneliness, fear, depression, and anxiety. Men and women, the rich and the poor, the young and the old everywhere are yearning to find some happiness and peace. Unfortunately, few find it.

Why? Why can't we find peace and happiness? What is the problem? The problem is our separation from God.

The Bible confirms this separation, "That at that time you were without Christ... having no hope, and without God in the world" *Ephesians 2: 12*. This