

“Have I Committed the ‘Sin Unto Death’?”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Folks repeatedly ask about unforgiven sin in one form or another, endlessly fascinated by the mysterious and dark nature of the concept
 - 1. The unpardonable sin - Mark 3:28-30
 - 2. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit - Matt. 12:31-32
 - 3. Sin unto death - 1John 5:16-17
- B. The answers are so simple that it is often received with disappointment and strong disbelief
 - 1. General rule of thumb: If you are concerned enough to ask the question, you have not committed the sin unto death
 - 2. If you are afraid you may have sinned against the Holy Spirit, you have not sinned against the Holy Spirit
- C. This lesson will consider:
 - 1. Sins against the Holy Spirit, including Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Sin that cannot be forgiven or sin unto death

I. SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit - Acts 5:1-4
 - 1. It cost them their lives - Acts 5:5-10
 - 2. Clearly, sinning against Deity is a serious matter - Rom. 9:1
 - 3. But is it unforgivable? - 2Sam. 12:13; 1Tim. 1:13
 - 4. “Obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly and in unbelief” speaks to motive; the one who believes and does it with full knowledge is different; he has become reprobate
- B. Resisting the Holy Spirit - Acts 7:51-53
 - 1. Resist is antipito. It means literally to fall against; thus, to oppose or fight against. This isn’t merely ignoring or dismissing the Spirit; it is actively, deliberately fighting against Him.
 - 2. By persecuting and killing the prophets, they were attacking the Holy Spirit’s work of revealing the will of God to humankind - 2Peter 1:21
- C. Quenching the Holy Spirit - 1Thes. 5:19-22
 - 1. Quench is sbennumi, meaning to extinguish, as in putting out a fire.
 - 2. Despise is exoutheneo, meaning to treat something as contemptible or unimportant
- D. Grieving the Holy Spirit - Eph. 4:30
 - 1. God grieves over our sins - Psalms 95:10
 - 2. Jesus grieves over stubbornness - Mark 3:5
 - 3. Rebellion causes the Holy Spirit to grieve - Isa. 63:9-10
- E. Insulting the Holy Spirit - Heb. 10:26-31
 - 1. Insulting is enubrizo, meaning to give insult by acting with contempt
 - 2. It is an ancient sin - Num. 15:30-31

3. This is someone who in his arrogance treats the ordeal that God went through to save him as nothing more than dirt under his feet. He does this through deliberate, intentional sin

II. BLASPHEMING THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Matt. 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30

1. Blaspheme is from blasphemia, a compound word of blapto -- to hurt, and phemi -- to speak. To say hurtful, evil, malicious things of another
2. Blasphemy is a form of slander where the blasphemer is trying to destroy the reputation and void the influence of another.
3. It expresses the concept of lies that are purposely told by one who fully knows that they are lies
4. This is someone who is purposefully trying to make the Holy Spirit look dishonest and evil in the eyes of others by intentionally making false statements about Him.

B. Context of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

1. Jesus had healed a demon-possessed man - Matt. 12:22
2. As a result, people realized that Jesus is the Messiah - Matt. 12:23
3. The Pharisees could not allow that to happen, so they told the people a deliberately slanderous lie about Jesus - Matt. 12:24
4. Jesus exposed the lie and warned that while they had blasphemed Him, there was still a chance for them to change before the coming kingdom Matt. 12:30-32, 25-29
5. But if they slander the Holy Spirit and His work, there is no other way to be saved.
6. It isn't that God refuses to forgive. There is no "unforgivable" or "unpardonable" sin. These words do not appear in the Bible.
7. The problem is that these arrogant blasphemers have no respect for the truth revealed by the Holy Spirit. They will consistently reject the only message that can save them, and therefore will never repent.

C. Have you blasphemed the Holy Spirit? Have you knowingly, maliciously tried to destroy the Holy Spirit's work?

1. If your heart is afraid that you might have done this, and you want to repent if you have done this, then you have not blasphemed the Spirit.

III. THE SIN UNTO DEATH

A. 1John 5:16-17

B. God desires all men to be saved - 1Tim. 2:4; 2Peter 3:9; Ez. 18:23

C. Jesus blood has the power to remove every sin

1. 1John 1:7, 2:1-2; Psalm 103:12; Isa. 38:17; Rev. 1:5

D. The Holy Spirit communicated the Gospel which is God's power to save everyone - Rom. 1:16

E. God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit desires that all humankind be saved from their sins and enter heaven

1. However, God cannot save one who does not want to be saved; the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse un-repentant sins

- F. What sins can be forgiven? Every sin that one repents
1. What sin cannot be forgiven? Every sin that one refuses to repent
 2. A sin that doesn't lead to death is a sin committed by someone who has the capacity to repent and does so
 3. A sin that does lead to death is committed by someone who is reprobate, who has degenerated to the point where he is incapable of feeling remorse and repenting of his sins
- G. Be careful not to risk becoming reprobate by staying in sin until you lose your tender heart; you will commit a sin that leads to death
- H. Have you committed the sin unto death? Does it bother you that you might have done this? Do you freely repent of every sin you are aware of having committed? Then you can repent, and when you have done so, be comforted by the knowledge that you have not committed a sin that leads to death

Conclusion:

- A. You would be better served spiritually to meditate on the mind of God who wants everyone to be saved than to meditation on the condition of the reprobate mind. You will not serve any purpose other than to unsettle your faith and peace of mind
- B. Every time you sin, be humble before the Lord and sincerely ask for His forgiveness. In so doing, you will never blaspheme the Holy Spirit nor commit a sin unto death