

DOCTRINE: THE SIN UNTO DEATH

During our recent study of the eight offenses against the Holy Spirit, some of you discovered the doctrine of the Sin unto Death for the first time. It was associated with the last three offenses against the Holy Spirit (lying, tempting, and insulting).

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of the doctrine of the Sin unto Death in order to understand how it was applied to the last three offenses against the Holy Spirit.

1. We will begin by defining the Sin unto Death.

“The Sin unto Death is the means by which a reversionistic believer is transferred from time to eternity under divine discipline (1 John 5:16).”

A Believer in Reversionism: “It is retrogression from any stage of spiritual growth by negative volition expressed by disobedience toward a specific revealed will of God (Heb.3:12).”

Ananias was transferred from time to eternity by the Sin unto Death because of lying to Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-6).

His wife, Sapphira, was transferred from time to eternity by the Sin unto Death because of tempting the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:7-11).

Some Hebrew believers left historical Christology and returned to shadow Christology (reverse process reversionism) and were transferred from time into eternity by the sin unto Death because of insulting the Holy Spirit (Heb.10:26-31).

2. The Sin unto Death is a ‘principle’ of sin rather than a ‘specific’ sin as you can see by the three examples in point one.

This verse is divided into two parts: “sin not leading to death” and “sin leading to death”.

- “If (3cc / **protasis**) anyone sees (horao / a.a.subj) his brother committing (hamartano / p.a.ptc.asm) [denotes distinctiveness] a sin (hamartia / asm) **not leading to death** (thanatos), (**apodosis**) he shall ask (aiteo / f.a.ind) and God will for him give (didomi / f.a.ind) life (zoe / asf) to those who (tois) [definite article] commit sin (hamartano / p.a.ptc.dplm) [indirect object] **not leading to death.**”
- “There is (eimi/ p.a.ind) a **sin leading to death**; I do not (ouk) say (lego / p.a.ind) that he should make request (erotao / a.a.subj) for this.” (1 John 5:16)

One method of exercising the Sin unto Death was given in 1 Cor.5:1-5. It was called “**delivering** (paradidomi / a.a.infin) [direct obj. of judged in 1 Cor.5:3] **such a one to Satan** (to satanas) **for the destruction of his flesh, that** (hina) **his spirit** (to pneuma) **may be saved** (sozo / a.p.subj) **in the day of the Lord Jesus.**” (1 Cor.5:5; 1 Tim.1:19-20).

Satan has no power over the soul or spirit of the believer except by permission by God, The Father (Job 1-2; Acts 7:59; Luke 23:46; Ps.31:5)

3. There are at least nine descriptive terms for the Sin unto Death in the Bible.

- Delivered over to Satan (1 Cor.5:5; 1 Tim.1:20; Phil.3:19).
- Carcasses falling (Heb.3:17; 1 Cor.10:5; Num.14:29).
- Given over to death (Ps.118:18).
- Taken away (John 15:2; Act 5:1-11).
- Swift destruction (2 Pet.2:1, 12).
- Destroyed by the Destroyer (1 Cor.10:10; Jude 5).
- Crawling out a burning house with clothes on fire (Jude 23)
- Premature death (Eph.6:1-4; Ex.20:12; Deut.5:16)
- Sleep (euphemism for death of believer) (1 Cor.11:27-32/ Eucharist/ 11:30)

You can be in reversionism in as well as outside the local body of believers (carcasses falling in wilderness) and Peter (Matt.16:21-23).

4. The Sin unto Death is the final stage of divine discipline (Heb.12:5-11).

We will examine the three stages and the responsibility that the church has at each stage of discipline.

- **First stage:** “light” Divine discipline, encouraging the Believer to stop or to turn away from a mindset of disobedience to the Word and Will of God. (Heb.12:5a) “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord.” (Rev.3:19-20)

Church: Gal.6:1-2; James 1:19-20; 1 John 1:9

- **Second stage:** “heavy” Divine discipline (scourging). (Heb.12:5b-6) “Nor faint when you are reprovved by Him; for those whom the lord loves He disciplines and He scourges every son whom He receives.”

Church: 1 Thess.5:14; 2 Thess.3:6, 14-15; 1 Cor.11:31; 1 John 1:9

- **Final stage:** The Sin unto Death (1 John 5:16) The Believer is removed from time.

Church: 1 John 5:16; 2 Cor.12:19-21; 1 Tim.1:19-20; 1 John 1:9; Rom.12:2; Eph.4:22-24