

THE SIN UNTO DEATH

Last week in our study of divine discipline the writer of Hebrews made a statement that is relevant to today's study

(Heb.12:9) "Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; **shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live?**"

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following two parts.

Sin not unto death:

(Heb.12:9) "If (3cc) anyone sees (horao / a.a.subj) **his brother** committing a sin (hamartano / p.a.ptc a.s.m) **not (leading) to death**, he shall ask and God will from him give life to those who commit sin **not** (leading) to death." (Heb.5:16a)

Sin unto death:

(Heb.5:16b-17) "There is a sin (leading) to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin (hamartia) not (leading) to death."

Therefore, the question becomes, "What is a sin that leads to the death of a brother / sister In Christ?" (CAB)

We will answer this question by the following SIX points regarding the Sin unto Death.

1. The sin unto death is not a specific sin but rather a principle of sin.

By principle of sin, we mean the failure to "submit to the Father of spirits and live." (Heb.12:9)

(1 John 5:16-17) the word for sin is without the Greek definite article, referring to a principle of sin rather than a specific sin.

By principle of sin, we mean the failure to submit to the Father of spirits and live under scourging divine discipline (Heb.12:6)

The first step in "submitting (hupotasso) to the Father of spirits and live" is confession of sin (1 John 1:9) (MAS; ST; OS).

Procedure: "If (3cc) [**maybe** we will / **maybe** we won't] we confess our sins,

Promise: "He (God) is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

2. A believer observing another believer in reversionism and "not willing to submit" is instructed not to pray for them because it isn't so much about sin as it is about "scourging" divine discipline.

The entire Christian Way of Life (CWL) is about **training in righteousness**.

Last week we learned that training in righteousness begins with cycling the Word of God by faith.

(2 Tim.3:16) "**All Scriptures** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."

(Heb.12:11b) **All discipline** for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

3. One biblical example of points 1 and 2 would be Jonah, on a ship running from God’s Divine Directive.

The captain called upon all the sailors to pray to their god for some resolution to the terrifying storm (Jonah 1). **But the divine discipline increased.**

The sailors knew that Jonah was running from the Lord so they encouraged him to get right with the Lord. **But he wouldn’t so divine discipline increased.**

Finally, Jonah told them to throw him into the terrifying stormy sea. **They hesitated and divine discipline increased.**

So they threw him overboard and the storm ceased for them **but the divine discipline increased for Jonah.**

It wasn’t until **the scourging** divine discipline of being inside the sea monster’s belly that Jonah submitted by confession to the Father of spirits and lived (Jonah 2:7-9; 1 John 1:9).

The Father’s divine discipline had reached the place of Jonah either becoming a meal for the sea monster or a missionary, the prophet of God (Jonah 2:10). Jonah’s second step in submission was the directive Will of God (Jonah 3:1-3).

4. Therefore, the sin unto death is the final stage of divine discipline to a believer.

There are four stages of divine discipline

- **First stage** is “rejection” of God’s directive will (Heb.3:12; James 5:19-20; 2 Sam.12:9).
- **Second stage** is “getting your attention” discipline (Heb.12:5; Rev.3:19-20).
- **Third stage** is “scourging” discipline (Heb.12:6; Ps.118:18)
- **Fourth stage** is the “sin unto death” (1 John 5:16).

5. We will mention four biblical examples of believers dying under the sin unto death.

- **Ananias and Sapphira** (Acts 5:1-10)
- **Lots wife** (Gen.19:17, 26; Luke 17:32)
- **Achan** (Josh.7:10-12, 20-26; 1 Tim.6:10)
- **Eli and his 2 sons** (1 Sam.2:29-34)

It is not a loss of salvation but a shortening of a believer’s time on earth (Eccl.3:2; 2 Tim.2:13; John 10:28-30).

6. We will mention four believers who recovered from the sin unto death.

Discipline teaches Grace before Judgment:

(Heb.12:9) “Shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live?”

- **Moses** (Deut.32:48-52)
- **David** (2 Sam.12:13-14; Luke 15:20-21; 1 John 1:9)
- **Jonah** (Jonah Ch.2)
- **The Corinthian believer** (1 Cor.5:1-2, 11-13; 2 Cor.2:5-11)