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## **“Sin Unto Death”**

*1 John 5:16-17*

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### ❖ Introduction

#### ➤ Review

- If we love God we are to keep His Commandments
- We must love Him and love our brethren
- Whosoever has faith in Jesus Christ and the truth of the Gospel is born of God
- If you're born of God, your faith is a victorious faith that can withstand whatever Satan throws at you
- To start though one must believe in the Jesus Christ of the Bible
- God has made eternal life available
- We can KNOW that we have life in Him, no ifs ands or buts about it
- We can know also that whatever we ask in prayer according to His will, that He hears us
- In light of these facts (Jesus Christ the Son of God who offers life eternal to all who would believe) we see what we see today

#### ➤ The Sin Unpardonable

- Is there just one thing or even any number of things that we can do that will not allow us into heaven?
- Is there something so egregious, so vile that God would not grant us forgiveness?

- We see an aspect of the believer’s prayer life
- We see also two types of sin
- We will examine this passage today, comparing Scripture with Scripture
- We will see what God is talking about when He says, “Sin unto death”

## I. Mediation (v. 16, 17)

### A. Considerations Regarding \_\_\_\_\_

1. Discussed a great deal here in these verses
2. Misconceptions about sin:
  - a) What it is
    - (1) Man: Only the worst of things man can do; not really a big deal
    - (2) God:
      - (a) “\_\_\_\_\_ unrighteousness” (v. 17)
      - (b) 1 John 3:4.
      - (c) Romans 4:15.
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ of sin
    - (1) Man: Venial, Mortal; Really bad, not as bad; “Well, I wouldn’t really call it ‘sin’”
    - (2) God:
      - (a) James 2:10.
      - (b) Revelation 21:8.
  - c) Who has sinned?

(1) Man: I wouldn't go that far; I've never done anything THAT bad; I feel like I'm a pretty good person

(2) God:

(a) Romans 5:12.

(b) 1 Kings 8:46. (Cf. II Chron. 6:36)

d) What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin?

(1) Man: I'll probably get to heaven; I'll work it out with God at some point; He wouldn't send me to hell

(2) God:

(a) Revelation 21:8.

(b) Hebrews 9:27.

(c) Romans 6:23.

e) As we'll see in a moment, there are sins not unto death as well as a sin that *is* unto death

f) So then the only way to be free from sins, forgiven, and made new is in Christ Jesus

g) Sin brings death; Christ brings \_\_\_\_\_

h) Have the Son, have life; have not the Son, have not life

3. The believer though can succumb to temptation and sin

4. God would rather that we not sin, but when we do we can come and ask for forgiveness (1:9; 2:1)

## B. Sins Not Unto Death

1. What are they?

2. First we must understand what the “death” spoken of here is
  - a) It is a \_\_\_\_\_ death
  - b) Indicates and eternal separation from God
3. This sin is sin in general
4. Here we actually see the idea of intercession or mediation
5. That is, if we notice a brother or sister who does commit a sin
6. We should pray for them:
  - a) Certainly for God’s mercy and leniency towards them
  - b) Scripture perhaps even indicates to a degree seeking forgiveness on their behalf
    - (1) Job 1:5.
    - (2) Job 42:8.
    - (3) James 5:14-15
  - c) Then also there is the idea concerning how offences towards us are handled
  - d) Matthew 16:19.
7. Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_ and reinforces some ideas we have already seen
  - a) Anything we do contrary to God’s righteousness is considered sin
  - b) Not according to man’s standard but by the standard of God

c) There are sins that we can be restored from back to fellowship with our Saviour

d) There is only one exception

## II. Mortality (v. 16)

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Death — Primary Interpretation

1. We have it simply stated that there is a sin unto death

2. Many religious people have come up with their own ideas what this is

a) Those who believe you can lose your salvation have long thought that this was suicide

(1) The logic is as follows:

(2) Murder is a sin that will lose your salvation (mortal)

(3) Killing oneself is murder

(4) Once the “murder” is committed, there is no opportunity for repentance

(5) Hence the unforgivable sin

b) Roman Catholics classify sins in two ways

(1) Venial and Mortal (i.e. less severe and more severe)

(2) Those that are blatantly committed and will destroy God’s grace in your heart

(3) Those less severe that if committed without repenting will also do damage to the grace of God in your heart

c) These doctrines are nowhere in Scripture (v. 17)

3. We see the \_\_\_\_\_ sin unto death

- a) What can condemn a soul to an eternal punishment with no hope?
- b) Matthew 12:31-32
- c) Mark 3:28-29
- d) Luke 12:9-10
- e) Definition of Blasphemy: *Blasphemy is an injury offered to God, by denying that which is due and belonging to him, or attributing to him that which is not agreeable to his nature.*
- f) What is something that is due and belonging to God that we can choose to deny Him?
- g) Our \_\_\_\_\_, trust, and repentance unto salvation — Acts 17:30.
- h) When one rejects Christ, he denies God the opportunity to perform the cleansing and regenerating work of the \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Titus 3:5-6
- j) 1 Corinthians 6:10-11

4. What is the one sin that will unequivocally condemn a soul to hell?

Rejection of God's free gift of salvation, and therefore the work of the Holy Spirit

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Death — Secondary Application

- 1. May refer to a believer
- 2. One who has fallen into deep, grave sin in his life

3. Or simply unwilling to give up something that has taken hold on his life
4. Should he continue, it will lead to his physical death as God's judgment
5. This result would also serve to remove a bad \_\_\_\_\_ from among the church and believers
6. Hebrews 10:26-27
7. Incest in the Church at Corinth — 1 Corinthians 5:2-5
8. 1 Corinthians 11:29-30
9. Regardless of the specific situation, there is a certain response where our \_\_\_\_\_ lives are concerned

#### C. To Pray Or Not To Pray

1. Regarding the "sin unto death" John says, "I do not say that ye shall pray for it"
2. Perhaps God's Word is directing us to \_\_\_\_\_ our prayers from these people:  
The obstinate unsaved and the wayward believer
3. Another option is that he could be saying, "I'm not telling you to pray for them, but I'm not telling you not to pray for them"
4. Prayer should always be taken seriously
5. It should always be done in the Spirit and by God's leading
6. God's instruction to Jeremiah:
  - a) Jeremiah 7:16.

b) Jeremiah 14:11.

7. Jesus, God in flesh, prayed specifically for His followers in contrast to the unbelieving — John 17:9.

8. 1 Peter 5:7.

9. Galatians 5:25.

10. Romans 8:26.

11. So then \_\_\_\_\_ aspect of our lives is to be Spirit led and especially our prayer lives

### III. Motivation

A. What to do about it . . .

B. First and foremost, if you are living in the sin of unbelief, follow the instruction found in God's Word

1. Acts 16:31.

2. John 3:18.

C. If you have done that, but are harboring sin, make it right with your Saviour

1. 1 John 1:9.

2. Proverbs 28:13.

D. Always let the Spirit lead your prayer life

E. Take sin seriously; Take prayer seriously

F. Walk with and Love God; Love and Serve people