

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

This is the chapter on blasphemy. I would like to define blasphemy with Webster's Third New International Dictionary: Blasphemy is irreverence towards God. The reviling [despising] of God. The act of claiming the attributes of God.

Blaspheme—to speak with irreverence for God—to speak evil of, to revile. When you study blasphemy throughout the Old Testament and New Testament, it is always done by a nonbeliever. If you want to know what a word means in the Bible, you must study its use throughout the entire Bible. Blasphemy was always done and will be done by the enemies of God. For example, the anti-Christ during the great tribulation in Revelation blasphemes God. This happens when he occupies the temple in Jerusalem and commands people to worship him as God. He says at this time there is no Christian God, instead he is God. This is blasphemy. Blasphemy is denying the purpose, existence and deity of one of the Persons of the Trinity—God the Father, or God the Son or God the Holy Spirit. Remember, blasphemy is done by the nonbeliever, not the believer. Once you understand this, you can easily understand Matthew 12, the unpardonable sin. Matthew 12:32, *“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven man, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven man.”*

Remember, the Holy Spirit is God, the Holy Spirit and the most important dimension of the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to be Jesus' witness, to teach men and women about Jesus, and to bring the individual to a knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes, ears and heart of the individual to Jesus. Hopefully then, the individual then makes the decision to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and then the person is saved—becomes a believer and immediately obtains salvation. The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus. Now, if the nonbeliever denies the purpose, existence and deity of the Holy Spirit, he or she will not be able to and is unwilling to receive and accept the witness of the Holy Spirit. The nonbeliever instead refuses and rejects the witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus [by the Holy Spirit Himself or through Christians speaking by the Holy Spirit]. Then of course, this person never gets to know who Jesus is. They, in their lifetime, will never receive and accept Jesus. They stay a nonbeliever and die a condemned sinner. Then in Gehenna, each and every sin of their life is punished, including the unpardonable sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. One more obvious point: when a person accepts Jesus and becomes a believer, the Third Person of God immediately indwells [lives inside] the individual. The Holy Spirit seals the individual and never leaves the person. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the individual's salvation. The Holy Spirit lives inside the believer. He, the Holy Spirit, is not going to speak and blaspheme against Himself.

The believer is not going to blaspheme the third form of God. 1 Corinthians 12:3, *“Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus a curse, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”* The last part of the verse says no one can accept Jesus as his or her Lord and Savior unless it is done by the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings the individual to Jesus. If the person refuses and rejects the Holy Spirit, he or she will never accept Jesus and they stay a nonbeliever.

Now you are ready to understand the second part of Matthew 12. *“Therefore, I say to you every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”*

Here is the explanation of the second part of Matthew 12:31-32. If the nonbeliever blasphemes Jesus, the Son of Man and speaks against Jesus, there is still the possibility that the witness of the Holy Spirit can work in the individual's life. The nonbeliever can still receive and accept the witness of the Holy Spirit and then accept Jesus as his or her Lord and Savior. Then, this person becomes a believer and every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven. Let me explain this in more detail: In this situation, you must

observe that the person blasphemed Jesus, not the Holy Spirit. Thus, here a person denied the purpose, existence and deity of Jesus.

This person denied that He was the Christ, the Messiah, and the Son of God who died for our sins. Then, the witness of the Holy Spirit was able to transform the nonbeliever to a believer and the individual accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Now as a believer, every sin and blasphemy is forgiven.

Two more observations and you will understand what blasphemy is: The Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy. The Jewish leaders unfortunately did not recognize Jesus as their true Messiah. They thought Jesus was committing blasphemy against some future Messiah. In other words, denying the purpose, existence and deity of some future Messiah. Think of an analogy such as this: A father has a son. The son is grounded and then becomes angry with his father and says to the father, "you son-of-a-gun." This is not blasphemy. Blasphemy is if the son was to say to his father, "I deny that you are my father, I deny your purpose and existence as my father." This is a greater offense. Blasphemy is not for some stupid reason, you get mad at God one day for something—blasphemy is when you are a nonbeliever and you deny the purpose, existence and deity of God Himself. If a nonbeliever is reading this chapter right now, whatever you do, do not blaspheme the Holy Spirit; always be willing to hear the witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus. The Holy Spirit will open your eyes, ears and heart to the truth of Jesus, and Praise God, you will then be able to accept Jesus into your heart.

Jesus says in John 15:26: *"But when the Helper [God the Holy Spirit] comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."*

In summary, the greatest sin (Sin #1) is Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, which is rejection of the Holy Spirit and His witness of Jesus Christ. The person stays a nonbeliever and this sin as well as all the rest of the nonbeliever's sins are not forgiven. The next greatest sin (Sin #2) is Blasphemy of the Son of Man, which is the rejection of Jesus Christ. This is the sin of unbelief. This is done by a nonbeliever. However, later a nonbeliever can receive the witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus and then become a believer. Once this happens, his blasphemy of Jesus is forgiven, as is all the rest of the believer's sins; past, present and future.

Blasphemy Sin #1: Rejection of the Holy Spirit and His witness of Jesus Christ.

Blasphemy Sin #2: Rejection of Jesus Christ = Sin of unbelief.

A person who continually rejects the Holy Spirit will never accept Christ and will always stay a nonbeliever (not forgiven). A person who continually rejects Jesus Christ may at some point in his life receive and accept the witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus and then receive and accept Christ and become a believer (is forgiven).

Sin #1- Rejection of the Holy Spirit = Never Forgiven.

Sin #2- Rejection of Jesus Christ = Sin of unbelief. This sin can be forgiven later in life if the person receives and accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.