

Sins Against The Holy Spirit

Intro: There is a mystery sounding any study of the Holy Spirit. This need not be the case. We have developed barriers to our understanding of the Spirit. The Spirit is a person of the Godhead. He has all the attributes and prerogatives of God. As such He can be sinned against. In this study we want to notice the sins against the Holy Spirit.

I. SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Blaspheming The Holy Spirit

1. There are three records of this statement.
 - a. Mat. 12:31-32 ^{“31} Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. ³² And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”
 - b. Mark 3:28-30 ^{“28} Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: ²⁹ But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: ³⁰ Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.”
 - c. Luke 12:10 ^{“10} And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.”
2. Notice the setting (context).
 - a. Jesus heals a man possessed with a devil.
 - b. The Pharisees claimed he healed him by the power of Beelzebub.
 - c. Jesus teaches that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.
 - d. If Jesus cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub, by what power did their children cast out demons.
 - e. If Jesus cast out demons by the power of God, then the kingdom was coming upon them.
 - f. The statement concerning blaspheming the Holy Spirit.
 - g. The words we speak come from the heart.
3. There are two basic views.
 - a. Some who have never studied the Bible on this question have come to various false conclusions: murder, adultery, suicide, etc.
 - b. Some believe that this sin is a rejection of the Word of God.
 - (1) One of the problems with this view is there is no contextual evidence for this view.
 - (2) Second the discussion is blaspheming (means speaking against) not rejection.
 - c. The Pharisees tried to discredit Christ by speaking against the miracle Jesus performed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Mark 3:30 ^{“30} Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.”
 - (2) This claim (although it had been made before) was never brought against anyone who performed a miracle after this statement.
4. It is not a sin that can be committed now.
 - a. A miracle would have to be performed, but the time of miracles have passed.
 - b. Christ forgives all sins.

B. Resisting The Holy Spirit

1. Acts 7:51 ⁵¹ "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."
2. Meaning of the word "resist."
 - a. The word is ἀντιπίπτω (*antipipto*).
 - b. Literally means "to fall against," thus "to oppose, or strive against."
3. Context:
 - a. Stephen is falsely accused of blaspheming Moses, God, the holy place (temple) and the Law of Moses.
 - b. Stephen makes his defense before the council.
 - (1) A brief summary of Old Testament history, showing God dealt with people outside of the temple and law of Moses.
 - (2) An earthly temple could not be the dwelling place of God.
 - (3) He makes the application.
 - c. They were resisting the Holy Spirit as their fathers did.
 - (1) Their fathers persecuted and slew the prophets.
 - (2) They had betrayed and murdered the Just One.
 - (3) They had not kept the Law of Moses.

C. Grieving The Holy Spirit

1. Eph. 4:30 ³⁰ "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."
2. Meaning of the word "grieve."
 - a. The word is λυπέω (*lupeo*).
 - b. It means "to make sorrowful, to cause pain or grief, to distress or offend."
3. Context:
 - a. This is stated in the midst of differing admonitions, especially teaching concerning the proper use of the tongue.
 - b. When we act contrary to the commands of the Spirit and specifically speak in a foul, corrupt, wicked, sinful way, we grieve the Spirit.

D. Quenching The Holy Spirit

1. 1 The. 5:19 ¹⁹ "Quench not the Spirit."
2. Meaning of the word "quench."
 - a. The word is σβέννυμι (*sbennumi*).
 - b. To quench or extinguish a fire or things on fire, thus to quench, suppress or stifle.
3. Context:
 - a. Beginning with 1 The. 5:9 (⁹ "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,") Paul gives us a view toward God, then toward Jesus. Then Paul gives us a view toward elders, and others. Last Paul gives 8 views toward self.
 - b. This is given during the miraculous age (1 The. 5:20 ²⁰ "Despise not prophesyings.")
 - c. Apparently some were prohibiting the miraculous work of the Spirit, specifically the revealing of God's will to man.
 - d. God has revealed His will to man today through the Bible. When we put out the fire of God's Word within us, we are quenching the Spirit.

E. Despising The Holy Spirit

1. Heb. 10:29 ^{“29} Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”
2. Meaning of the word “despite.”
 - a. The word is ἐνυβρίζω (*enubrizo*).
 - b. It means “to insult, or to treat with contempt.”
3. Context:
 - a. Jewish Christians were leaving Christ and going back into Judaism.
 - b. Apostasy brings damnation.
 - (1) The one who rejected, transgressed, Moses law died, physically.
 - (2) Those who reject the salvation of Christ will receive a greater punishment.

II. APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES.

A. Rejecting and resisting God’s Word.

1. When we refuse to hear God’s message we are quenching the Spirit.
2. As the Spirit teaches us and we refuse His instructions we resist Him.
3. When we refuse to live according to the precepts of the Spirit’s teaching (especially speaking evil), we grieve Him.
4. When we reject and treat what the Spirit has done for us (His grace) insultingly, then we despise the Spirit.

B. We can reach the point where it is impossible to be saved.

1. Not because God’s power is incapable of saving us.
 - a. God can save us from any sin we commit.
 - b. 1 John 1:7 ^{“7} But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
2. We can become so hardened by sin, that we cannot change.
 - a. John 12:39-40 ^{“39} Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, ⁴⁰ He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”
 - b. Heb. 3:13 ^{“13} But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

III. THE SIN UNTO DEATH.

A. 1 John 5:16-17 ^{“16} If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.”

1. There is a sin unto death and one not unto death.
2. Death in this passage is spiritual death.
 - a. Eph. 2:1 ^{“1} And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”
 - b. Rom. 6:23 ^{“23} For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
3. The term brother shows this is discussing sins that Christians commit.

B. Explained by the book.

1. 1 John 1:9 ^{“9} If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
2. God will forgive all sins we confess; God will not forgive the sin unto death; thus the sin unto death is the sin one will not confess.

Conclusion: Let us always be careful to give heed to what the Spirit teaches us through the Word of God. If we should commit sin within our lives, listen to what the Spirit teaches us to obtain forgiveness of those sins, obey it, and do not harden your hearts against the Word of God.