

## SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH!

1 John 5:9-17

INTRODUCTION: One of the most controversial subjects in the Bible is the subject of once saved, always saved. We all want to know what happens to the backslider who dies in a backslidden and sinful condition. We must remember that none of us can judge another's salvation. The Bible makes it clear that our God judges differently than we do: 1 Samuel 16:7. There are three possibilities concerning a backslider. First there is the possibility that such a person was not actually and truly saved: 2 Corinthians 13:5. This person will go to hell, not because he is backslidden but because he was never truly saved. Second: is that a person truly saved, and then they follow the temptation of Satan. If they are truly saved God will begin to chastise them and correct them in order to bring them back to Himself.: Hebrews 12:7-8. So it is possible for a true believer in Jesus Christ to backslide and be disciplined by their heavenly Father and return to the Lord in repentance and renewed service to God. Third: A truly saved person may backslide and when God disciplines them but that person willfully rebels against God and will not listen to God. When that happens that person has committed a sin unto death: 1 John 5:16-17. The sin unto death is not the unpardonable sin. The unpardonable sin is mentioned by Jesus in Mark 3:28-29. If you are unsaved and reject the Holy Spirit's ministry to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior that is the unpardonable sin. 1 John 5:16. That word "brother" always refers to a fellow Christian. All people without being born again are in spiritual death: Genesis 2:15-16; Romans 6:23. The sin unto death does not lead to spiritual death, it leads to physical death for the Christian: 1 John 5:16; James 5:16.

### I. SEXUAL IMMORALITY!

The first example of a sin unto death is found in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. This man is living in open rebellion against God's Word and is having sex with either his mother or step-mother. The church is told to deliver him to Satan because he has committed a sin unto death. Later this man does repent and so he did not die early: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11.

### II. SPIRITUAL HYPOCRISY!

The second incident of this sin is recorded in Acts 5. Ananias and Sapphira were church leaders who wanted to look good to their congregation. They pretended to sell their property and give all the money to the apostles but kept back some of it: Acts 5:3-4. They died in disgrace because although Christians they wanted the praise of men instead of the praise of God. Ananias and Sapphira committed the sin unto death.

### III. TAKING COMMUNION IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER!

The third incident given in Scripture deals with the Lord's Supper. The apostle Paul said that many in the church at Corinth were sick, weak, and a number had died because of taking the Lord's Supper unworthily: 1 Corinthians 11:27-32. We must live committed godly lives for the Lord's glory because we are not our own, we have been bought at a price: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

### IV. TWISTING THE SCRIPTURES!

The fourth incident is told to us by Peter. 2 Peter 3:14-16. Peter and Paul warn us that there are men who will twist the Scriptures to justify their own sin. If you take the Bible and twist it to justify your sinful life style you are in danger of committing a sin unto death. When a true believer in Jesus Christ just laughs it off when the Lord and His servants are warning them to repent, they are playing with the sin unto death. The Lord is telling us that when a person

has been warned many times and they just keep hardening their hearts there is no more need to keep on praying for them. They have committed a sin unto death. We must take these warnings seriously. The Bible tells us that if you've sinned against God and you are a Christian, if you are willing to acknowledge your sin, He will be faithful and just to forgive your sin and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9. Confession that does not lead to purity of life and a separation from all unrighteousness is not Biblical confession. When we truly confess our sin we repent, we turn away from our sin: 2 Corinthians 7:10.