

# So That You May Know

## An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:16&17**

### Chapter 29- The Sin Unto Death

### 265 The Sin Unto Death- Part 5

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WAQY Monday 10/20/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John taught about "The Sin that is unto Death". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 5:16&17** again together:

**16** If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not *leading* to death, he shall ask and *God* will for him give life to those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is a sin *leading* to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

**17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not *leading* to death.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been exploring just what John was talking about here when he mentions the sin that leads to death. And I told that that this is a very controversial passage in God's Word over which much debate has raged for many years.

And we saw last time that- in my opinion- based upon my own best honest research- there are only two possible answers to just what John meant when he used the term, "**sin that leads to death**" that doesn't contradict any other verse:

A. John many have been talking about a sin that is unto *eternal* death as in the unpardonable sin of blaspheming the Holy Ghost as Jesus taught in **Matthew 12**

B. John may have been talking about a sin that is unto *physical* death as in the case of Ananias and Sapphira as Luke recorded for us in **The Acts 5**.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have explored the first

possible answer- that John was actually talking about a sin that is unto *eternal* death- that is the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. And I have gone over with you what this sin is *not* and how evil people manipulate others by holding the fear of this sin over their heads and so today- I want to go into just what blaspheming against the Holy Spirit actually consists of.

Jesus said in **Matthew 12** that all blasphemy that men do can be forgiven except when they blaspheme against the Holy Spirit. Those who actually do blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. So let's turn to **Matthew 12:31&32** and read that passage again together:

**31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.**

**32 "Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.**

Now Jesus didn't just speak these words out of the clear blue sky- but there is *context* to these frightening Words because Jesus spoke them as the result of what had happened just a few verses earlier- so let's read **Matthew 12:14-37** together so that we can get the feel of this entire exchange:

**14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.**

**15 But Jesus, aware of *this*, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all,**

**16 and warned them not to tell who He was.**

**17 *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:**

**18 "*BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL is WELL-PLEASED; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.***

**19 "*HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.***

**20 "A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY.**

**21 "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."**

**22** Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw.

**23** All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"

**24** But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."

**25** And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "**Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.**

**26 "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?**

**27 "If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? For this reason they will be your judges.**

**28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

**29 "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.**

**30 "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.**

**31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.**

**32 "Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.**

**33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.**

**34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.**

**35 "The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil.**

**36 "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.**

**37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

Now first of all- we must understand that the Pharisees were not sincere and well- meaning people who were just a little bit off on their theology. No, these men- who were collectively called Pharisees- are the only group of people in the entire New Testament about whom Jesus never said anything good about.

These men were supposedly the ones who knew more about God than anyone else in Israel and yet they didn't know God Incarnate when He stood right in front of them. These men studied the Law from the time they were 12 years old every day- twelve hours every day- until they died. So these men were supposedly experts in what the 39 Books of the Old Testament said. And yet they rejected the very Messiah that the Old Testament prophesied about.

Now there were many different schools of the Pharisees back then and some were better than others- but these men collectively represented the very best of human achievement as it pertained both to obedience and practical application of the Law of God that the world had ever seen.

Many of the Pharisees could quote entire chapters of the first five Books of the Bible by memory and several of them could recite all five Books solely from memory.

So the Pharisees didn't think that they had anything to learn- because they had everything that God had spoken; they knew everything that God has said; and they understood everything God had said. So their claim and reputation as it pertained to God and the things of God was, *"I see; I understand; and I am aware"*.

And this is why Jesus didn't show these people any mercy at all when He talked with them. These men did not come to Jesus broken over their own sin- no, they came to Jesus for the sole purpose of trying to trap Jesus so they could remove any credibility from Him. They did not seek to worship Jesus – they sought to kill Him. They didn't just disagree with what Jesus said- they wanted to silence Him by killing Him and when they were unable to trap Jesus into giving a wrong answer- the Pharisees then attributed all that Jesus did to the power of the devil. And this is what true blasphemy is. It is not simply wrong words that are spoken or when people say things that they shouldn't

say in the heat of an argument- but it is the entirety of a person having an evil heart and of having a wicked approach to seek to reject Who Jesus is and to destroy Jesus by linking what Jesus did in the Power of the Spirit- to the devil. And the reason that this sin cannot be forgiven is because if you remove Jesus being the Messiah from the discussion- then nobody can be saved.

So Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their ignorance of God's Word by repeatedly saying to them:

**“Have you not read?”** or

**“Have you not heard?”**

In other words- Jesus is attacking them at where they are supposedly the strongest- at their supposed knowledge of the Scriptures. And so because these men said that they knew and understood- Jesus did not allow them any variance and He expected them to know and He condemned them for not knowing- because manifestly- they didn't know.

And so here is what we need to take away from this. Everything in the Old Testament is about Jesus. And so, any understanding of the Old Testament that does not reveal Jesus Christ as being the true Messiah- is a *false* understanding. A correct understanding of what God the Holy Spirit inspired to be written in the Old Testament will always and in all cases reveal Jesus as being the Messiah. And so any religion that hangs its hat on being true to the Old Testament and that does *not* lead its followers to Salvation in Jesus Christ is a *false* religion.

And perhaps the most pointed exchange that Jesus ever had with these men is recorded for us in **John 8**. This exchange shows us the great hatred that the Pharisees had for Jesus and it also shows us that Jesus looked at these men as being nothing but self- righteous charlatans who were deceiving the people and who were actually committing the sin of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. So, let's read **John 8:31-59**:

**31** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **"If you continue in My word, *then you are truly disciples of Mine*;**

**32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."**

- 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, '**You will become free**'?"
- 34 Jesus answered them, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.**
- 35 "**The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.**
- 36 "**So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**
- 37 "**I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.**
- 38 "**I speak the things which I have seen with *My* Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father."**
- 39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "**If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.**
- 40 "**But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.**
- 41 "**You are doing the deeds of your father.**" They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."
- 42 Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have *C*not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.**
- 43 "**Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word.**
- 44 "**You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**
- 45 "**But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.**
- 46 "**Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?**
- 47 "**He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God."**
- 48 The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"
- 49 Jesus answered, "**I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.**
- 50 "**But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges.**

**51 "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death."**

**52 The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.'**

**53 "Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out *to be*?"**

**54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God';**

**55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word.**

**56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad."**

**57 So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"**

**58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."**

**59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.**

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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