

Behold What Manner of Love

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

Chapter 28- The Sin Unto Death

262 The Sin Unto Death- Part 5

WAOY Monday 10/20/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are going to continue to look at what John taught about "the sin that is unto death"- so let's read **1John 5:16&17** again together:

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.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been exploring just what John was talking about here when he mentions the "sin unto death". And I told you 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 unto 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 Ghost. 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 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 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.

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 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

16 And charged them that they should not make him known:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

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 shew judgment to the Gentiles.

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:**

26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

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.

33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Now first of all- we must understand that the Pharisees were not sincere and well meaning people who just had a different opinion about the things of God. 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 they didn't know God's Own Son 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 until they died. They were experts in both the Law and the Prophets.

Now there were many different schools of the Pharisees 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 has 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.

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. 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 exposing Jesus to be the fraud and liar and deceiver that they really believed that He was. 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. 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 destroy Jesus by linking what Jesus did in the Power of the Spirit to the devil.

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

“Have ye not read?” or

“Have ye not heard?”

In other words- 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. 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 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**

32 **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

33 They answered him, **We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?**

34 Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

35 **And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.**

36 **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

37 **I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.**

38 **I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.**

39 They answered and said unto him, **Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

40 **But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.**

41 **Ye do the deeds of your father.** Then said they to him, **We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.**

42 Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.**

43 **Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.**

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, **If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.**

53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

54 Jesus answered, **If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:**

55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

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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