

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 29- The Sin Unto Death

271 The Sin Unto Death- Part 11

WAOY Wednesday 10/29/08

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 we have studied the issue of the sin unto death very thoroughly over the last ten broadcasts- but there is still one more aspect about this passage that we need to discuss.

This passage here in **1John** where John speaks about "**the sin that leads to death**" is used by a very large and powerful religious organization to develop the concept of what *they* call "The Dual Status of Sin" wherein they teach that sin is divided into two groups. They teach that there are *some* sins- that while bad- are not so bad that they "kill" the Salvation "process" and there are other sins that are so heinous- so terrible- that they actually "kill" the process of Salvation in the believer's life.

So, they divide sin into these two groups. And they call these bad- but not deadly- sins- "venial sins" and they call the deadly sins- "mortal sins". This religious organization teaches that "venial sins" are those sins that need to be repented of- but which are not so bad that they *destroy* Salvation; while "mortal sins" are those sins whereby what they call, "the process of Salvation" is actually "killed" inside the believer.

And these people use this passage here in **1John** to justify that false teaching- where the “sin that leads to death” that John talks about here is said to be the “mortal sins” that kill or destroy the Salvation “process”.

Now there are a number of things that need to be said about false and unbiblical beliefs like this. First and foremost- we have to realize that these things matter.

We live in a day where the Truth of Scripture has been so watered down that many hold the position that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you love Jesus. But that position is utterly ridiculous and is a reflection of the liberalization of the modern Church.

I have tried very hard on these broadcasts to make the argument that the very same thing that is happening in the natural in our country is happening in the Spirit in the Church. For example- there are a number of people in our nation today- who hold positions of power and authority- who say that the words of the Constitution don't mean what they say. These people teach that the Constitution is what they call a “living document”. Now when you hear talk like that, dear friends, please be aware what it actually means.

For anyone to say that the Constitution of the United States is a “Living Document” means that the words of the Constitution don't mean what they say- but they only mean what the judge *says* that they mean. In other words- the power to understand what the Founding Fathers meant by what they wrote in these people's view- does not lie in carefully analyzing the actual words that the Founding Fathers used in the Document itself- but these people believe that the power to unlock what the Founding Fathers meant- lies in the mind and heart of the Judge.

And it is from this strange view of the Constitution where we get all of the wacky rulings that are radically and wrongly transforming our country.

For example- it is from the ruling of only a handful of judges where we get the notion that we are not supposed to pray in School and that teachers and school administrators are forbidden to lead prayer in School. These people take the 1st Amendment to the Constitution which rightly prohibits Congress from passing a law to establish a religion and they interpret that to mean there is somehow a “wall of separation” between Church and State.

But the only entity that is prohibited from doing anything in the First Amendment is Congress- not school boards; and not Government in general- not even state governments have any restrictions placed on them by the 1st Amendment.

But because these people teach that the Constitution is a “living Document”- therefore words don’t mean anything until the judge assigns his *own* meaning to what the intent of the Founding Fathers was.

Now that is bad enough- and those of us who actually love this country are very concerned about these renegade judges who are not accountable to anyone just making up their own rulings based on nothing more than their own personal opinions.

But what is worse than that- dear friends- is self- appointed and unaccountable leaders and teachers and so called prophets and apostles in the modern Church- who completely ignore the meaning of the actual Words that came out of the very Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God in scripture- and these people believe they have the authority to assign any meaning on any Verse of Scripture that suites their fancy- all in the name of “*God told me*” or “*the Lord spoke to me*” or “*the Spirit led me*”.

And the result of these spiritual liberals gaining influence in the Church- is that we now have a smorgasbord of beliefs and people feel good about doing what is right in their own eyes and they have no allegiance to the actual meaning of the inspired Words that were breathed out from God and they have no continuity to 2,000 years of Church history. And so the fear of God is something that is rejected as even being important and the holy and righteous Ways of God are laughed at and the Objective time tested and proven understanding of Holy Scripture is considered to be mean spirited; unloving; unchristian and a hindrance to a real move of God’s Spirit. But it isn’t any of those things- it is simply being faithful to what God said.

I can’t tell you the many times I have been in meetings with supposedly saved people where the topic of the conversation was whether or not we need to obey what God said in His Word. I tell you it is enough to make you cry when you hear the reasons and the excuses that Church people give as to why they don’t believe that living in abject rebellion to the Holy Bible is even wrong- much less sinful.

Now I have said many times on these broadcasts- I do not have the ability or the right to judge another person's heart; I cannot even judge their motives. And I am not doing that.

But what I *am* doing and what I *do* have the right to do and what I do have the *responsibility* to do is to call attention to *any* teaching by *anyone* that is contrary to the Word of God and the fact of the matter is that there are many things that are being taught today that are extremely popular and yet which are lies- right from the pit of hell and they are not in any way Biblical.

And we are going to have to do a much better job of exercising spiritual discernment and know what we believe and why we believe it so that we do not say "Amen" to something that God didn't say.

And even though we live in a day when it is just easier to "go along to get along" and while some people call what I am doing just bashing people- I have a very narrow purpose in doing what I am doing. It isn't okay for anyone to teach things that are contrary to Scripture, dear friends, but when you are talking about how a sinner is justified- it becomes especially important that we get this right.

I realize that people say that there are all kinds of things that are important today like financial prosperity and physical healing and psychological boosts and new revelations and things like that- but beloved- Salvation is the most important thing that we have. If you are as wealthy as Rockefeller and as healthy as a horse and you die and go to hell- what good have you done?

In **Matthew 16:26**, Jesus asked this question:

**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?
Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

So nothing else matters nearly as much as where you and I are going to spend eternity. That is ground zero; that is where the rubber meets the road and if anyone is deceived by a false religious concept on how to be saved- they will spend eternity in a devil's hell. That is how serious this is.

And contrary to popular opinion, dear friends, being a nice person and protesting against abortion and voting against homosexual marriage and giving to the Red Cross and loving your neighbor are all good and wonderful things but if you have not been born again; if you

have not been regenerated by a Sovereign act of God; if holy Red Blood has not washed your black heart and made it whiter than snow- you are yet in your sins and you are not saved.

And if you are lost- nothing else on this earth matters until and unless you are saved- absolutely nothing. So this is one of several areas that have absolutely no room at all for any discussion or any personal opinions or any other viewpoints. We have to remember that Salvation was God's idea to begin with and so if anybody goes to Heaven at all- they will go the one single way that God said they will go or they will not go at all.

So feel free to play with me or play with your friends or play with your dog but do not play with God and do not play around with salvation and do not accept a teaching about Salvation from anybody that is not Biblical and do not be impressed by any teaching about God or the things of God simply because it is old or popular.

We have to remember, dear friends, that simply because some religious organization says something doesn't make it true. Satan was in the Garden with Eve in the beginning- but that doesn't make what satan says to be true. So the age of a teaching does not guarantee its veracity- and we must not base the truthfulness of a teaching on how many people believe it or follow it. No, the only thing that makes a particular teaching to be true is if it is in agreement with Scripture.

The Bible clearly teaches that a lost sinner is made fit for Heaven by the imputation of the Righteousness of Jesus Christ by the agency of faith and by faith alone dear friends. And Biblical Justification is absent any human works or any human deeds or any Church Sacraments.

Neither Salvation nor Grace is infused in anybody at infant Baptism- the Bible does not teach that anywhere and so if your understanding of Salvation includes or begins with infant baptism- then your view of Salvation is not true and it will not allow you to pass through the Judgment of God.

The Bible teaches that people who are already saved by faith alone are baptized as an act of humble obedience. People who are already saved by faith alone take Communion as an act of love; and people who are already saved by faith alone go to Church regularly in response to what Jesus has already done for them- not to *acquire* Salvation. So neither going to Church nor taking communion nor being

baptized has any power at all in any way to infuse Grace into your soul or to wash your sins away or redeem you from your sins.

Now stay with me, beloved- because this is important. Contrary to what some religious organizations teach- Justification is *not* a process. Justification is not something that *gradually* happens to a person over a long period of time. Justification is an “event”- that happens instantly- one time- at a particular moment in time to lost sinners.

Justification is when lost sinners are forgiven and made righteous before God- and that event involves two things that instantly happen as the result of one thing that God Sovereignly does in us first.

Now there are two parts to being Justified- not one. Everybody knows that we are forgiven when we are justified- but there is a second thing that occurs when we are justified in addition to being forgiven that for some reason is not discussed as much today. You see, before we are saved- we have two problems- not just one. We are sinners and we are unrighteous. So, when we are justified- two things happen:

1. We are forgiven
2. We are made righteous

You see, dear friends, if all that we receive when we are justified is forgiveness- we still couldn't go to Heaven- because in order for *anyone* to go to Heaven- they have to be just as righteous as God is. And being forgiven and being made righteous are not the same thing.

Now even though these two things are different- they are both accomplished in us and for us by the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did here on earth. But one was accomplished by His death- while the other was accomplished by His sinless life.

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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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.