

Sins Against the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

- A. People often ask, “What is the unpardonable sin?” and “What is the sin against the Holy Ghost?”
 - B. Since the Holy Spirit is a Person in the Godhead, all sin is ultimately against Him. - Psalm 51:4
 - C. But several sins are specifically noted as offending the Holy Spirit. - e.g., Matthew 12:31-32
 - D. What are the sins against the Holy Spirit?
- I. Blasphemy - Matthew 12:31-32
- A. God is willing to forgive even the vilest of sinners. - Isaiah 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:15-16
 - B. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?
 1. The Lord had worked a miracle to sustain His claims. - Matthew 12:22
 2. The people believed, but the Pharisees, while admitting the miracle, attributed it to Satan. - Matthew 12:23-24
 3. The Master devastatingly demonstrated the deception of this denunciation. - Matthew 12:25-30
 4. In reality, Jesus performed miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Matthew 12:28; cf. Luke 4:14
 5. In attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan, the Pharisees blasphemed the Spirit of God (“blasphemy”: “impious and reproachful speech injurious of the divine majesty” [J.H. Thayer, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 102). - Matthew 12:31
 - C. How is it, then, that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven?
 1. Jesus performed miracles by the Holy Spirit for the specific purpose of demonstrating He is the Son of God. - John 20:30-31
 2. One whose heart was so hardened that he would attribute the miracles of the Holy Spirit to Satan could never be led to believe. - cf. John 12:37-40
 3. It was not a matter of unwillingness to forgive on God’s part but of unwillingness to believe on the Pharisees’ part.
 - D. Can we blaspheme the Holy Spirit?
 1. Since the miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit have ceased, we cannot commit this specific sin.
 2. However, we can become so hardened of heart we are unreachable.
 - a. alien sinners - Matthew 13:13-15
 - b. erring Christians - Hebrews 3:7-13; 6:4-6
- II. Resist
- A. “resist”: “to fall against, to rush against, to stand firm against” (Jimmy Tuten, **The Holy Spirit, His Person and Work**)
 1. The Jewish nation didn’t just refuse to hear the prophets; they killed them!
 2. The council didn’t just refuse to hear Christ; they killed Him!
 3. This very same council both rejected and killed Stephen! - Acts 7:54-60
 - B. When one closes his ears to the Word of God and persecutes the preacher, he is fighting, not just a man, but God. - cf. Luke 10:16
- III. Tempt - Acts 5:9

- A. When Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostle Peter, they lied to the Holy Spirit Who empowered Peter to know their thoughts. - Acts 5:1-4
 - B. How did they tempt the Holy Spirit?
 - 1. not in the sense of enticing Him to sin - James 1:13
 - 2. rather in the sense of testing (Thayer. 498) His power to know their hearts and actions and His determination to punish sin.
 - 3. They lost in the test. - Acts 5:5-11
 - C. We so tempt God by sin and unbelieving disobedience. - Hebrews 3:7-9
 - D. We will lose in the test. - Hebrews 3:10-11
- IV. Grieve - Ephesians 4:30
- A. Godly parents are terribly grieved when their children sin.
 - B. Our Father is saddened when we leave Him. - Hebrews 3:10-13
 - C. The Ephesians especially grieved the Holy Spirit because they were “sealed” by Him through the spiritual gifts. - Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 19:1-7; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20,27
 “sealed”: (1) *to set a seal upon, mark with a seal, to seal ... 1c1) to set a mark upon by the impress of a seal or a stamp.... 1d) in order to prove, confirm, or attest a thing.... 1d1) to confirm authenticate, place beyond doubt (SeedMaster computer Bible program, quoting **Theological Dictionary of the New Testament**)*
- V. Quench - 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- A. First century Christians could “quench (“suppress, stifle” [Thayer. 572]) the Holy Spirit by
 - 1. discouraging the use of spiritual gifts - 1 Thessalonians 5:20
 - 2. or failing to use spiritual gifts they had. - 2 Timothy 1:6
 - B. We are guilty of a parallel sin if we
 - 1. discourage others in their service to God - 1 Samuel 8:1-7
 - 2. or fail to use our opportunities and abilities in service to Christ. - Matthew 25:14-30
- VI. Do Despite - Hebrews 10:28-29
- A. “do despite”
 - 1. “insulted” (**New King James Version, New American Standard Bible**)
 - 2. “insult, act with insolence” (W.E. Vine, **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**. 1:301)
 - 3. “treat shamefully” (Thayer. 633)
 - B. One insults the Holy Spirit by turning back from following His Word and intentionally living in sin. - Hebrews 10:26
 - C. The punishment for this is terrible indeed! - Hebrews 10:27-31
- Conclusion:
- A. We should be on guard lest we:
 - 1. reject the testimony of the Spirit in unbelief,
 - 2. resist the Spirit in refusing the Gospel,
 - 3. tempt the Spirit by our sin and disobedience,
 - 4. grieve the Spirit by sin,
 - 5. quench the Spirit by discouraging others in their service to God or failing to work ourselves,
 - 6. or do despite to the Holy Spirit by turning away from His Word to a life of sin.
 - B. The Spirit invites all to be saved. - Revelation 22:17