

Doctrine of the Unpardonable Blaspheme

1. There are three theories, two of which have potential and one "stinketh to high heaven;" they are:

1.1 It is one of the taboos most heinous to the one theorizing.

1.2 It cannot be performed anymore because the sin was explicitly contributing the miraculous works of the Messiah to Satan and therefore cannot by definition be performed anymore.

1.3 It is the "saying no" to the Holy Spirit's convincing ministry.

2. That every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men is an integral part of the Doctrine of Unlimited Atonement. Atonement by Christ at Calvary was sufficient to remit the guilt of all sins, for both the believer and unbeliever.

Let's look at our chart entitled "Unlimited Atonement."

QuickTime™ and a
Photo - JPEG decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

2.1 The unpardonable blaspheme is described in Mat 12:31-32.

Mat 12:31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Mat 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever **speaketh against the Holy Spirit**, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

2.2 The unpardonable event is not called a sin. It is said to be speaking against the Holy Spirit.

2.3 To call the event “the unpardonable sin” is technically a misnomer. To reject the convicting ministry of God the Holy Spirit has far greater consequences than any personal sin. It is a rejection of God’s grace.

3. The lack of forgiveness is not due to the inadequacy of the atonement, nor may we infer any peculiar sacredness of the Third Person of the Trinity.

3.1 For this reason there seems to be credible evidence that the speaking against the Holy Spirit may refer more to “a rejection of the convincing ministry of God the Holy Spirit.”

3.2 There are those who explain this sin as “the attributing of the miraculous works of the Spirit to Satanic power (cf. Mar 3:29,30), and see no possibility of its being committed today since Christ is no longer incarnate (see Thieme, Chafer, Broadus, Gaebelein and others who hold this position).

Mar 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

3.2.1 Mark's account seems to give more credibility to the theory that this blaspheme is a Kingdom Age phenomena just because of verse 30. In other words: “The sin is not forgivable because they said “the incarnate Christ has an unclean spirit.”

Mar 3:30 Because they said, He (**the Christ**) hath an unclean spirit.

3.3 Others, however, regard the accusation of the Pharisees as being symptomatic of their refusal to heed the convincing ministry of the Holy Spirit and not the blaspheme itself. The following verses point to the corrupt heart as the cause of the sin.

3.3.1 A particular function of the Holy Spirit is to convince the unbeliever that he has sinned thereby facilitating salvation.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

3.3.2 He who rejects the overture/s of the Holy Spirit removes himself from the only force that can lead him to forgiveness.

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

3.3.3 That such a settled state can be reached in this life is explicitly stated in Joh 3:36.

3.3.4 We cannot read hearts, and thus cannot judge when others have reached such a state and it is really none of our business.

3.3.5 The real possibility of this sin does not weaken the gospel invitation, "Whosoever will," nor does it lessen in any way our responsibility to take the claims of Christ to others.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

3.3.6 As for the Pharisees of Jesus' audience, it is not stated whether or not they had committed this blasphemy of refusing the convincing ministry of the Holy Spirit, but the warning is clear.

3.3.7 Their considerable instruction made their responsibility great; their previous hostility showed their determined unbelief.

4. The unpardonable blaspheme is the one error for which Christ did not die. It is the rejection of the convincing or convicting ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Joh 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Joh 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Joh 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Joh 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Heb 10:29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

4.1 As we have seen the rejection of Christ is classified as a sin in Joh 16:9:

Joh 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

4.2 The unpardonable error is called:

4.2.1 the willful sin-

Heb 3:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

4.2.2 blasphemy of Holy Spirit-

Mat 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men.

4.2.3 resistance of the Holy Spirit-

Acts 7:51 Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye.

4.2.4 insulting the Holy Spirit-

Heb 10:29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

4.3 Those who are performing the unpardonable blaspheme consider the good news of salvation foolishness.

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.