

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Sin that leads to death

Sin that leads to death - posted by Sree (), on: 2017/3/21 17:11

1 John 5 -16 :- If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that.

I recently had a mature brother share in my Church on the meaning of Sin leading to death. It was very prophetic. I never thought this sin was that serious and could lead to death.

Here John is asking believers to not pray for a fellow brother who is committing a sin leading to death. So whatever that sin is, it does not demand prayer from fellow brothers.

1 John 4:20- If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

1 John 3:15 :- Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer.

So the sin that leads to death is a sin of hatred towards a fellow brother in Christ. John says he does not have eternal life. He might have had eternal life before, but not now. So when we find a fellow brother in Christ hating us, we should not even pray for this brother.

Where did John learn it from? He learnt it from Jesus. Jesus did not pray for Judas. Peter committed a serious sin of denying Jesus. But Jesus still prayed for him that his faith should not fail. But there is no record of Jesus praying for Judas after the sin to betray Jesus entered Judas. In fact Jesus asked him to do it quickly!

It is easy to imagine that we are good and never hate another brother in Christ, without being part of a local body of believers. But once you get into a local body and have to work with brothers who are different from you, then only you will be tested in this sin. I believe due to this hatred, many have already withdrawn from local body of believers. It is easy to love brothers in Christ who are persecuted in distant nation. But difficult to fellowship in a committed relation with a body of believers.

Re: Sin that leads to death - posted by drifter (), on: 2017/3/21 18:37

I disagree on several points.

A man who hates his brother has never been born again to begin with. Divine love is proof of salvation. You can do miracles, understand all mysteries, prophesy, speak in tongues all day long, move mountains with your faith, memorize the Bible in 10 languages, but if you don't have love, you have nothing.

And I don't see why Judas could have not been forgiven. After all, we all were responsible for putting Jesus on the cross.

As I see it, the only unforgivable sin is a persistent, obstinate refusal of the work of the Holy Spirit when you know Him to be working. Only God knows when a person crosses that line.

In Christ,
-Nigel

Re: Sin that leads to death - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2017/3/21 19:06

Some interesting thoughts, I always wished that John had given us a little more detail on "sin unto death." But I would tend to agree with Nigel, I have always thought that the "sin unto death" was described in these verses;

Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation : (Mark 3:28-29)

I think we should be careful when it comes to stopping to pray for someone, when I remember that God saved a wretch like me I am hopeful for all people.

In Christ,

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2017/3/22 0:58

Quote:

A man who hates his brother has never been born again to begin with. Divine love is proof of salvation.

John is not writing about a person who is not born again. Every letter is written for believers who are born again. He is writing about a person who was once born again, had the divine love but then lost his love for his fellow brother. The way he is called a 'brother', shows that he was once a brother of Jesus (born again). If a person was never born again, he is never a brother. The word brother is very casually used most of the time, these days. I do not call every so called christian my brother. To call someone brother is a serious title, it means the person is a brother of Jesus. I take it serious when someone calls me brother of Jesus.

So a person who breaks bread in Church with me but hates me is a person committing a sin leading to death. Judas did that. Jesus did not even pray for him. This proves that his sin was a sin that leads to death. If the sin of Judas was no different from that of Peter then Jesus should be partial to Peter for praying for him alone!

Quote:

And I don't see why Judas could have not been forgiven. After all, we all were responsible for putting Jesus on the cross.

You seem to miss the point totally. No one claims that crucifying Jesus was the sin that leads to death. Jesus prayed for even those who crucified him. So it is certainly not a sin leading to death.

The sin of Judas that I am referring here is to betray a fellow brother. Judas broke bread with Jesus but still ended up hating and betraying him.

John 13:18 "He who shared my bread has turned against me."

John 13:18 is the sin of Judas. It is a serious sin to hate a brother with whom we break bread.

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2017/3/22 3:46

Matthew 12:31 says, "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."

With all due respect, I don't see anything about hating your brother in that verse.

1 John 4:20 says, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

So it would seem there are false converts, people called "brothers".

I don't believe in eternal security, but I do believe it is incredibly hard to lose your salvation. Jesus doesn't just drop us like a hot potato if we are unloving sometimes. I believe when the scriptures refer to people who hate other people (and in a broader sense every person on the planet is a "brother") or don't love other people, it indicates a heart condition. Lost people are incapable of divine love.

Re: Sin that leads to death - posted by savannah, on: 2017/3/22 4:39

You said,
"He might have had eternal life before, but not now."

Not so!

Jesus said,
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
John 10:28

It's either eternal life, or it's not eternal life. You must remove the word eternal which precedes the word life, to make it fit your doctrine.

And as for Judas Iscariot, he's called the son of perdition. Just as Jesus told the Pharisees that their father was the devil, so also with Judas. Neither Judas nor the Pharisees of whom He spoke, had ever been born from above.

He is both the Author and Finisher of our faith

Soli Deo Gloria

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2017/3/22 9:56

Why should everything be connected to losing salvation? I believe that Eternal life is a gift of God and like any gift, this gift can also be lost. I believe that is purely scriptural. But this post is not connected with losing salvation. Hence I am not interested in answering all the half quoted scriptures here. A brother who is committing a sin leading to death as mentioned in 1 John 5:16, can still repent and come back as Jesus mentioned in Matthew 18:15.

"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

But I see a great danger of Calvinistic view here, because of such a view, you see this scripture (1 John 5:16) as written to false brothers and not for them. That is a serious erroneous state to be in. Because their false theology has blinded their eyes, they start to think that this sin cannot be found in them and it should be a false alert!

I do not hold such theology, every warning and alert in scripture is applicable to me as well. I believe that every born again believer can fall into the sin leading to death. John is not giving us a false warning here.

The reason I have posted this thread is to show the grievous nature of such a sin of hating brother. You might not have witnessed it, I have witnessed it. In the context of local Church, when a brother with whom we fellowship intimately might get offended with us and leave the Church. There is nothing wrong in leaving the Church, but they also try to make false claims to justify their stand against the Church. They try to impress other members of the body to leave like them as well. This is just the same stand that Lucifer took when he pulled 1/3 of angels in Heaven with him, when he fell. We even see that in SI, when people get offended with SI moderators, they try to post a farewell post, often defending themselves and posting false accusation of how SI has lost favor with God etc! 1 John 5:16 talks about such brothers. It says not to even pray for such brothers.

Re: Sin that leads to death context - posted by savannah, on: 2017/3/22 13:08

I know not any who'd have the understanding this person who visited your church has. And nothing I've read by any other believer has even alluded to such an understanding.

I thought the following had some insightful truths to consider regarding 1 John 5:16.

The following is by Henry Alford;

“Our first canon of interpretation of ‘the sin unto death’ and ‘not unto death’ is this, that the ‘death’ and the ‘life’ must correspond. The former cannot be bodily death, while the latter is eternal and spiritual life. This clears away at once all those commentators who understand the sin unto death to be one for which bodily death is the punishment, either by human law generally, or by sickness inflicted by God.

“Our second canon will be, that this sin unto death being thus a sin leading to eternal death, being further explained to the readers here, must be presumed as meant to be understood by what the Evangelist has elsewhere laid down concerning the possession of life and death. Now we have from him a definition immediately preceding this, in verse 12, ‘The one who has the Son has the life. The one who does not have the Son of God, the life does not have.’ And we may safely say that the words ‘unto death’ here are to be understood as meaning ‘involving the loss of this life which men have only by union with the Son of God.’ And this meaning they must have, not by implication only, which would be the case if any obstinate and determined sin were meant, which would be a sign of the fact of severance from the life which is in Christ (see 3:14, 15, where the inference is of this kind), but directly and essentially, i.e., in respect of that very sin which is pointed at by them. Now against this canon are all those interpretations far too numerous to mention, which make any atrocious and obstinate sin to be that intended. It is obvious that our limits are thus confined to abnegation of Christ, not as inferred by its fruits otherwise shown, but as the act of sin itself.

“Our third canon. will help us decide, within the above limits, which especial sin is intended. And it is, that by the very analogy of the context, it must be not a state of sin, but an appreciable ACT of sin, seeing that that which is opposed to it in the same kind, as being not unto death, is described by ‘if anyone see his brother sinning.’ (The verb ‘see’ is aorist subjunctive, speaking of a single act of seeing. K.S.W.)

“In enquiring what this is, we must be guided by the analogy of what St. John says elsewhere. Our state being that of life in Christ Jesus, there are those who have gone out from us, not being of us (1Jn 2:19), who are called antichrists, who not only ‘have not’ Christ, but are Christ’s enemies, denying the Father and the Son (1Jn 2:22), whom we are not even to receive into our houses nor to greet (2John 1:10, 11). These seem to be the persons pointed out here, and this is the sin, namely, the denial that Jesus is the Christ, the incarnate Son of God. This alone of all sins bears upon it the stamp of severance from Him who is the Life itself. As the confession of Christ, with the mouth and in the heart, is salvation unto life (Ro 10:9), so denial of Christ with the mouth and in the heart, is sin unto death.”

From the above we are led to the conclusion that ‘the sin unto death’ refers in the context in which John is writing, to the denial of the Incarnation, and that it would be committed by those whom John designates as antichrists, who did not belong to the true Christian body of believers, but were unsaved.

Re: Sin that leads to death - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2017/3/22 16:14

It is possible for a Christian to hate his brother, but if this is the case it is impossible for this one to walk in fellowship with God. Hatred is listed in Galatians 5 as a work of the flesh. The true nature of a Christian is love. The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We know that the Word of God has commanded us to forgive our brother if we have been offended, but if we don't forgive then bitterness and resentment can turn into hate.

I believe that the unpardonable sin is not a sin that is done in ignorance, but just as the Pharisees said that Jesus did miracles by the power of the devil knowing full well that Jesus was sent from God. The unpardonable sin is loving and holding on to the darkness and not coming to the light. There is no repentance when this is the case, and so there is no forgiveness.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2017/3/22 18:26

I do not believe unpardonable sin and sin that leads to death are the same. The only unpardonable sin for a believer is the sin that he does not confess and repent from.

All sin leads to death (James 1:15). But we can always come to our senses repent and come back to life again. Life is to know God, or to have fellowship with God. Sin breaks our fellowship with God.

In 1 John 5, John is talking about the Sin that leads to death for which other believers are not asked to pray for. So the hint is, it is a sin that does not require prayer. If we go with that hint, we can easily relate it to sin of hating a fellow brother.

Re: Love & hate - posted by savannah, on: 2017/3/25 18:31

Sree says,

The sin leading to death in 1 John 5:16 is hating your brother, and the persons guilty of it are born again children of God Who is Light, therefore His children are also called children of light.

But I say that this is NOT according to Scripture!

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because darkness hath blinded his eyes. 1 John 2:9-11

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother, abideth in death. Whoever hateth his brother, is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:10,14,15

If a man sayeth, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also. 1 John 4:20,21

Whoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat, loveth him also that is begotten by him. 1 John 5:1

Sree says,

"I believe that every born again believer can fall into the sin leading to death."

I believe the testimony of God, NOT men!

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2017/3/25 23:38

I used to believe in a kind of flip-flop salvation; saved one minute, lost the next if you sin and you have to be saved again. I no longer believe this. This kind of attitude leads into bondage and legalism, and a try-harder attitude. Legalism will rob you of love. If I get angry at my brother, or fall into hate, have I lost my salvation? No, I don't believe so. Jesus goes to incredible lengths to rescue us: "...yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him." 2 Samuel 14:14. Having said that, I believe the evidence of salvation is love. It is not the norm for Christians to hate ANYONE, let alone a brother.

And I want everyone to know I respect your views, even though I might not agree with you. I could care less about winning an argument; I love you all.

God bless,
-Nigel

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2017/3/26 3:45

I believe that the dispensation of Grace plainly shows that the only sin that leads to death is not believing what God has said about His Son, and what He did to purchase the sinner that believes that Jesus is the Son of God and the sinner now has life and that life is in the Son.

1 John 5:9-14 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

Again; "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

The sin of unbelief is the sin leading to death. The, "a sin not leading to death" by the Grace of God by the shed blood of Jesus Christ takes away completely, 1 John 1:9 all sin of the believer, past, present and future, God is faithful to the work of His Son. I can pray for the believing brother who is sinning, for the unbelieving only God can change this one. But still I can love them both.

Praise God He has redeemed and purchased me by the Work of His Son Jesus Christ on the Cross, of whom I now have. "He that has the Son has life, he that has not the Son has not life".

Believe, leading to "a sin" not leading to death. Believe not, leading to "a sin leading to death, (eternal death)

In Christ: Phillip

All of Chapter 5 shows plainly what God has done to purchase me by the full payment of His Son and how much Grace by faith has made me a son of God with My Brother Jesus Christ and His Spirit now living in me, making me presentable to God Our Father, fellow heirs with Jesus Christ leading me to my eternal place Jesus has prepared for me.