

Question

What is the unpardonable sin? I have heard that if you “blaspheme the Holy Spirit” you are lost forever. Is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit the unpardonable sin?

Answer

We all have emotional ups and downs. We even do weird and wacked-out things sometimes. Is there ever a sin that the sacrifice of Christ on the cross cannot forgive?

Here is one way to think about the "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" issue: What IS the only sin God cannot forgive? It is refusing the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for our sins. Doesn't that make sense? If a person out-and-out rejects the salvation offered through Jesus Christ – how can he/she be forgiven? It would be impossible. It is a life-style of rejecting Jesus that will, in the end, thrust a person into the horrible judgment of God.

Read John 3:16 and then read a few verses later (v.18) where Jesus clearly states that the wrath of God remains on anyone who chooses to remain in an unbelieving state. The wrath (judgment) of God is already upon all people outside of Christ. John repeats the same thing at the end of chapter three, verse thirty-six. The FINAL judgment will not happen until the second coming of Christ.

Read Matthew 12:22-37. Jesus warned the religious leaders who were so adamant in their unbelief, that if they continued in that course of life, it would be impossible for them to be forgiven – ever. The attitude of unbelief that the religious leaders had been displaying was proof of their unbelief. Their unbelief was not like the innocent doubts that we all sometimes have, but it was an unbelief that outright rejected Jesus. Unbelief that rejects the forgiveness of sin in Christ is the most dangerous spiritual condition on the face of the earth.

A Christian cannot commit the unpardonable sin. If you are a Christian and you feel sorrow over sin, then you definitely do not fit in the category of one who has committed the unpardonable sin. If you were in the "unpardonable state" you would not even have remorse over your sin.

Unfortunately, there are many cult-like groups that prey on unsuspecting people with a blasphemy-of-the-Holy-Spirit ruse. False and irresponsible teaching is everywhere.

The best remedy is good, solid study of Scripture and consistent fellowship in a healthy biblically-grounded church. Be a growing disciple of the Lord.

■ Your assignment:

Go to John's first letter toward the end of the Bible – 1 John 1:8-10.

Read and reread these verses and see if they apply to you. If they do, write them out on a piece of paper. Carry that piece of paper with you everywhere you go. Do this for a month. Memorize this passage. Meditate on this passage. Make it your life's goal to understand all that this passage means for you. Once you do this, God will open the door for you to help others.