

=THE HOLY SPIRIT=

Lesson 3

Sin Against the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION: There are some sins against the Holy Spirit that are uniquely committed by Christians. Then there are some sins against the Holy Spirit that the Christian cannot commit; they are committed only by the unsaved. We will divide the sins into two groups for this lesson.

I. SINS OF THE UNSAVED.

1. Blasphemy. Matthew 12:31, “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.” This is the unpardonable sin. It is a sin that is committed by an unbeliever who, when he knows the Holy Spirit is doing a work, willfully attributes that work to the Devil. Our Lord had cast out a devil, and some had attributed that work to Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. Our Lord reminded them that this sin would never be forgiven them. This is what we call the unpardonable sin.
2. Resisting the Holy Spirit. Acts 7:51, “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.” This sin is committed by the unsaved who hear the Gospel and resist it. In other words, it is when a person hears the Gospel either by sermon or personal witness and refuses to be saved.
3. Insulting the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 10:29, “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” This is the sin that is committed by those who continually resist. The sin of resisting is to turn down the Gospel. When one continually turns down the Gospel, he commits the sin of insulting the Holy Spirit. The word “despite” here means “insult.”

II. SINS OF THE SAVED.

1. Sexual sins. I Corinthians 6:18-20, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” Going back a few verses in I Corinthians 6, we find that the subject of the chapter is fornication, which includes all sexual sins. This would include adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, sex perversion, etc. When one commits one of these sins, he sins against his own body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
2. The unequal yoke. II Corinthians 6:14-17, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” Since the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, as these verses teach, when a person yokes himself with unbelievers in marriage, in business, in church, in religion, etc., he commits a sin against the Holy Spirit, for his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
3. Not caring for the body or misusing the body. I Corinthians 3:16, 17, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” Once again we are reminded that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are to care for our bodies. This means we are to keep our bodies well, we are to condition them properly, feed them properly, etc. Any refusal to do this is a sin against the Holy Spirit.
4. Grieving the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30, “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” (Teacher, go back a few verses in Ephesians 4, and notice that the subject here has to do with evil speaking, bitterness, etc. Notice all the things here that obviously grieve the Holy Spirit.)

5. Quenching the Holy Spirit. I Thessalonians 5:19, “Quench not the Spirit.” This is the sin of refusing to do what the Holy Spirit says. The Holy Spirit leads us to talk to someone and we refuse; then we quench Him. The Holy Spirit calls someone to preach and he refuses; he is quenching the Holy Spirit. Anytime the Holy Spirit speaks to us to tell us what we ought to do and we refuse to do it, we quench Him, thereby committing a sin.

CONCLUSION: People often ask if some sins are greater than others. Yes, they are. The greatest sins are the sins against the Holy Spirit. This is brought out in the fact that the unpardonable sin is such a sin. Let us do our best not to sin against the One Who indwells us, Who loves us, Who is our comforter, our guide and our constant companion.