

THE SIN UNTO DEATH

1. The sin unto death declared as a principle.
 - A. 1 John 5:16, "There is a sin unto death."
 - B. Psalm 118:17, 18, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord hath chastened me sore: but He hath not given me over unto death."
 - C. Ezekiel 18:21-32.

2. Characteristics of the sin not unto death.
 - A. It is a sin which is confessed. 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - B. It can also be characterized by a sin which is discontinued. Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Ezekiel 18:21-32.
 - C. It is a sin which responds to discipline. Hebrews 12:6, CF "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." Hebrews 12:11-15, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the GRACE of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

3. Characteristics of the sin unto death.
 - A. 1 John 5:16b, "There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."
 - B. An unconfessed sin, therefore persistent, never sees restoration. 1 John 1:9.
 - C. It is a sin which persists unchecked.
 - D. It is a sin which ignores GRACE, warning and discipline. Leviticus 26.
 - E. It is a sin which has a maximum adverse effect on other believers. Acts 5.

4. Case histories of the sin unto death.
 - A. 1 John 5:16b.
 - B. Corinthian incest. 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, put present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."
 - C. Lying to the Holy Spirit. Acts 5:1-10. Trying to get credit for something you didn't do.
 - D. Persistent carnality at the Lord's table. 1 Corinthians 11:30, 31, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."

- E. Disobedience to the Word of God. An example is King Saul.
 - 1. 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14, "So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the Word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; And enquired not of the Lord: therefore He slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse."
 - 2. 1 Samuel 13:9-14, "And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which He commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought Him a man after His own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over His people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee."
 - 3. Saul had no business offering sacrifices. He was a king, not a priest. The priest didn't show up when Saul thought he should. Saul was told to annihilate Agag, but he didn't. Saul consulted a medium, the witch of Endor.
 - F. Self-righteousness and dependence upon man perpetuated.
 - 1. Isaiah 38, Hezekiah.
 - G. A believer turned apostate.
 - 1. Numbers 31:8, "And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword." The example here is Balaam.
 - 2. 1 Timothy 1:19, 20, "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme." The examples here are Hymenaeus and Alexander.
5. Some of these sins are gross and overt. Some are mental attitude sins.
6. Conclusion: the sin unto death is not a specific sin, but a continual carnality, out of fellowship, perpetuated for a long period of time.

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