

The One Sin that Will Not Be Forgiven

Luke 12:8-12

Years ago a young man came into my office and asked the question, “If a person believes in Christ and commits suicide, is that person in heaven?” I answered that what takes a person to heaven is perfect righteousness, and that is received by *faith in Christ* (see Romans 3:22). It was a few hours later I learned that the young man had committed suicide. This happened to me nearly three decades ago, and ever since then I’ve been very careful in answering similar questions. In our text Jesus is very clear that there is one sin that can’t be forgiven; it’s called *the unpardonable sin* or *blasphemy against the Holy Spirit*.

I. A person right with God is one who *confesses Christ* (vs 8-9)

There’s a word study that needs to occur in order to understand what it means to confess Christ.

- A. In Greek it is *homologeō* – “I say the same thing about Christ that He says about Himself.”
“He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). The Jews sought to kill Him because “he made himself equal with God” (John 5:18). Jesus very clearly stated to the Pharisees and religious leaders in Israel, “You will die in your sins because you do not believe that I am (He)” (John 8:24).
- B. It’s a confession *before men* – “I take my stand and declare Jesus is God and Savior of the world.” This is called a profession of faith. The Latin word *fess* means “to declare or acknowledge belief.” Con-fession – is a standing with. Pro-fession – is a standing before (as in ‘before men’). There is no such thing as a secret Christian. *Imparted* righteousness becomes *imbedded* righteousness. “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16).
- C. A *continual denial* of Christ leads to a *condemning denial* by Christ.
Matthew Henry says, “Those who confess Christ now, shall be owned by him in that great day.”

II. A person reprobate by God is one who *blasphemes the Spirit* (v. 10).

The word reprobate means “rejected as worthless; or to disapprove.” It comes from two Latin words **re-** which means “opposite of” and **probare** – which means “to approve.” The person who ultimately is disapproved of by God is the one who “blasphemes the Holy Spirit.” What does this mean?

- A. **It’s not “speaking a word against the Son of Man”** – which is Jesus’ favorite title for Himself. He is both the Son of Man and the Son of God. But there were many people in His day, and many folks in our day who struggle believe the carpenter from Nazareth is indeed God Himself. Many of us have had our doubts about the Son of Man. Those doubts and words can be forgiven.
- B. **It’s ascribing to Satan a work that comes directly from God** (see Matthew 12:24, 32)
The Pharisee leaders ascribed Jesus’ benevolent and loving works to the spirit of evil and of darkness. They who accused Him knew better. They had heard Him teach, not once, but often; they had seen His works; and yet, though they knew every word and work of His was holy, just, and pure, in order to compass their own selfish ends, *they antagonized Him even unto death*.

III. A person resting in God is one who *overcomes the world* (vs. 11-12).

Whatever your trial may be, or whatever your trouble, as surely as God is on His throne, He who brings you *into* the trial will bring you *through* the trial; and He will do it in such a way that it will be obvious that He did it. He will give what you need, when you need it. He enables you to do all things. “For **the Holy Spirit** will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say” (Luke 12:12). Do you see? The same Holy Spirit that some blaspheme is He who will guide you when open your heart to Him. “Here I am, God. I desire to be inhabited by Your Spirit! Work in me to conform me to Christ’s image.”
The sin that will never be forgiven is to attribute the good work of God to something evil and dark.