



What is the “unforgivable sin.”?

In our daily devotions not long ago we read this passage from 1 John 5:16-17 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. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

Jesus also referred to this sin in Matthew 12:

And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 **Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.**

It seems odd that there is a sin that can't be forgiven. I mean Jesus died to take the punishment for all sins. When God raised Him from the grave that was His stamp of “Paid in Full” on all sins.

So, what is this sin against the Holy Spirit, the sin that leads to death? And what puts it into the category of “unforgivable?” To answer that we simply need to look at the Holy Spirit's main “job”: Bringing people to trust in Jesus for their forgiveness and eternal life. If a person persists in rejecting the Spirit's work to create that trust, they are, in effect, saying, “I don't want your forgiveness!” So, it's unforgivable because the forgiveness is rejected. The forgiveness is there, like a package placed on your doorstep. But if you send the package back and say that you don't need it, God won't force you to accept His forgiveness.

One final, really important, thing. If you are worried about committing the sin against the Holy Spirit, you can rest assured that you haven't. Those who reject the Holy Spirit's work, couldn't care less about doing it.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net