

THE SIN UNTO DEATH

Request Bible Study (RBS): “What is the sin that leads to death in 1 John 5:16?”

John concluded the Epistle of First John with an overview of the following six important doctrines in 1 John 5:13-21.

- Eternal Life (1 John 5:13)
- Prayer (1 John 5:14-15)
- Sin unto Death (1 John 5:16-17)
- Victory over Satan (1 John 5:18-19)
- Positional Truth (1 John 5:20)
- Warning against Idolatry (1 John 5:21)

Notice that I have combined the doctrines of prayer and sin unto death in our lesson text (1 John 5:14-17). I noticed that John used the word ask (aiteo) [5 times] to connect these two doctrines together (1 John 5:14, 15, 16).

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Confidence – ask - God’s will (1 John 5:14) 1 time
- Confidence – ask – God gives (1 John 5:15) 3 times
- Committing a sin not unto death – ask – God will give him life (1 John 5:16a) 1 time
- Committing a sin unto death – do not request (erotao) “I do not say that he should make a request for this.” (1 John 5:16b-17)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the Sin unto Death doctrine in order to answer the request.

1. The sin unto death is a principle of sin rather than a specific sin in a reversionistic Christian’s life (Rom.8:5-8; Gal.6:7-8; Eph.4:17-20).

By principle of sin, we are referring to an unchecked continuance in reversionism or a state of reversionism (1John 5:16; 1 Cor.5; Phil.3:17-19).

We will break down **1John 5:16** into four parts to examine its meaning in CWL.

“**If** (3cc) **anyone** [Spiritual Mature Believer] **see** (horao / a.a.subj) [see with the mind] **his brother committing a sin** (hamartano / p.a.ptc) **not leading to death** (thanatos) [not in a state of reversionism]. He shall ask (aiteo / f.a.ind) [petition] **and God will for him give** (didomi / f.a.ind) **life** (zoe / ph.II) **to those who commit a sin** (p.a.ptc) **not leading to death. There is** (eimi / p.a.ind) **a sin leading to** (eis+acc) [face to face] **death** [state of reversionism]. **“I do not say that he should make request** (erotao / a.a.subj) [intercessory] **for this.”**”

Reversionism: It is retrogression from any stage of spiritual growth as a result of negative volition expressed by disobedience towards the revealed will of God (Heb.3:12; Prov.14:14) [backslide].

Sin unto Death: It is the means by which a reversionistic believer is transferred from time to eternity under maximum divine discipline.

2. The sin unto death is the final stage of divine discipline in Christian Way of Life (CWL)

Example: Jonah:

- **Stage One:** In a boat on a violent sea - 1:4,11
 - The starting Divine Discipline (Heb.12:5; 2 Tim.3:16; Rev.3:19-20; James 5:19-20).
- **Stage Two:** At the bottom of a calm sea, with seaweed wrapped around his head and a sea monster coming for him – 1:15; 2:5 and 10).
 - Scourging Discipline (Heb.12:6; 1 Thess.5:14; 2 Thess.3:6, 14-15).
- **Stage three** is the sin unto death (1 John 5:16; 1 Cor.5:5; 1 Cor.11:30-32) [sleep].

(Heb.12:6) “For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines.”

(Heb.12:7) “It is for discipline that you endure.”

(Heb.12:9) “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live?”

(Heb.12:10) “For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplined us for our good, that we may share His holiness.” (Josh.3:5) [qadas / holy or consecrated]

3. A reversionistic believer can be experiencing divine discipline and still be active in church attendance.

The Exodus Israelites wandering in the wilderness would provide us with an example: harden hearts, rebellion, tested and tried Me, sinful, unbelieving heart, hearts always going astray, turn away from living God, deceitfulness of sin, disobedient (Heb.3-4).

The question might be “what responsibility does a Spiritual Mature Believer have towards one of these individuals?” (Gal.6:1-5; James 5:15-20; Jude 23)

Intercessory prayer (1 John 5:14-17) [for one NOT under the sin unto death]

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|-----------|----------------|-------------------|------|
| • Abraham | Gen.18:20-23 | Sodom | Lot |
| • Moses | Num.14:2-12 | Exodus generation | Land |
| • David | 2 Sam.12:12-23 | Child | Live |

4. The Sin unto Death is not the loss of salvation, but rather the loss of one’s allotted time on earth (ph.II).

- Phase I The plan of God of salvation (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).
- Phase II The plan of God of CWL (Phil.1:20-25).
- Phase III The plan of God of believer in eternity (2 Tim.4:7-8).

On the blank lines, write five additional descriptions of reversionism that could lead to the sin unto death.

_____ (Acts 5:5; Eph.6:1-4).

_____ (1 Cor.10:5; Heb.3:17).

_____ (1 Sam.25:36-38).

_____ (1 Cor.5:5; 1 Tim.1:19-20).

_____ (1 Cor.10:10; 2 Pet.2:1).

[Phase I and III are not effected by the sin unto death (John 10:28; Col.3:3)].

5. Recovery from the sin unto death involves a process of Spiritual Restoration from reversionism to spiritual maturity (Heb.5:11-6:4).

This process involves these three important elements (Luke 15:17/ sick of it; 28/ not sick of it)

- **Confession of personal sin** (homologeō) mental attitude sins; sins of the tongue and overt sins
1 John 1:9; Heb.12:9; 1 Cor.11:28-32.
- **Change of mind** (metanoia) regarding choices in life that are in opposition to the revealed will of God in your life. Rom.8:5-8; 2 Cor.12:20-21.
- **Correction of “cosmos diabolicus thinking”** (evil thinking which is in opposition to God’s will)
Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2; Heb.5:11-14.