

What is The Unforgivable Sin

(Short Answer)



The "unforgivable sin" or "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit"

(Matthew 12: 31-32 and Mark 3: 28-29)

Is the deliberate and persistent rejection of God's work and grace in Jesus Christ.

It is unforgivable because it rejects the only source of forgiveness and salvation.

What is The Unforgivable Sin

(Fuller Answer)

According to Jesus, the unpardonable or unforgivable sin is unique. It is the one iniquity that will never be forgiven according to Matthew 12:32. It is blasphemy (“defiant irreverence”) of the Holy Spirit in the context of the Spirit’s work in the world through Christ.

The particular case of blasphemy seen in Matthew 12 and Mark 3 is directed at a group of Pharisees who had witnessed irrefutable evidence that Jesus was working miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit. Yet, they claimed that He was demon possessed by the prince of demons, Beelzebul (Matthew 12:24; Mark 3:30).

They were not speaking out of ignorance or misunderstanding. They knew prophecies were being fulfilled by Jesus and that he was the Messiah sent by God to save Israel. They saw Jesus’ wonderful works, and they heard His clear presentation of truth. Yet they deliberately and defiantly closed their eyes and became willfully blind to the truth.

These verses are specifically directed at those Pharisees’ and cannot be repeated today. The only unpardonable sin today is that of continued unbelief. The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, convicting the unsaved of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). If a person consistently and defiantly resists that conviction and remains unrepentant, then he is choosing hell over heaven. But we know that God has provided for our salvation in His Son (John 3:16). Forgiveness is freely available exclusively in Jesus (John 14:6). To unrelentingly reject the only Savior and be left with no means of salvation is, obviously, unpardonable.

Unfortunately, many people today fear they have committed some sin that God cannot or will not forgive. They might even feel there is no hope and give up. BUT God gives encouragement to every sinner who is convicted of his sin: “Come near to God and he will come near to you” (James 4:8). “Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Romans 5:20). The powerful testimony of Paul is proof positive that God can and will save anyone who comes to Him in faith (1 Timothy 1:12–17).

If you know someone who is suffering under that load of guilt, assured them that they have not committed the unpardonable sin. God is waiting with open arms.

Jesus’ promises that “He is able to save completely those who come to God through him” (Hebrews 7:25).

Our Lord will never fail. “Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2).