

Dear Christopher,

Thank you once again for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked what the unforgivable sin was and where it was found in the Bible.

The unforgivable sin is willful and persistent sinning after embracing the truth, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and making a covenant of sacrifice to follow God's will in all aspects of life in order to reign with Jesus in heaven. We believe that there are two parts to salvation—the first part is for those true Christians who have chosen to follow in Jesus' footsteps now in order to receive a heavenly reward and the second part is for all others who have ever lived. The latter group will have an opportunity in the age to come to walk in the way of righteousness to obtain everlasting life on earth. However, members of the first group (true Christians) are on trial now to obtain spiritual life. Therefore, the unpardonable sin applies to this group during this Gospel age.

The unpardonable sin is described in Hebrews 6:4-6 and again in Hebrews 10:26, 29, 31. "It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace." (Hebrews 6:4-6) "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left. . . . How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? . . . It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10: 26, 29, 31)

The above scriptures explain that it is possible for Christians who have made a covenant of sacrifice during this Gospel age to fall from God's grace by **deliberately and willfully** sinning, mocking God and his promises, after having once been enlightened by the Holy Spirit and called to be sons of God and heirs with Jesus in heaven.

There are three other scriptures that are often used to refer to the unpardonable sin. They are Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, and Luke 12:10. Since all three scriptures are similar and recount the same incident, we need only quote Matthew 12:31-32 where Jesus, speaking to the Pharisees, says, "And I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 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."

We believe that Jesus is giving the Pharisees a warning not only about what would happen to those who accept Christ and then sin against the Holy Spirit in this Gospel age, but also what would happen to all those (them in particular) who deliberately sin against the Holy Spirit in the future age to come on earth. The scripture has a double application: for true Christians during this age and for the rest of the world in the age to come. In both instances, those who deliberately sin against the enlightenment they have received from the Holy Spirit will not be pardoned and, therefore, lose their opportunity for either eternal spiritual life in heaven now or everlasting life on earth in the future.

What is the unforgiveable sin and where is it found in the Bible? The unforgiveable sin is willful, deliberate sin against the spirit of enlightenment. The scriptures that best describe that sin are found in Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26, 29, 31.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio