

The Sin Unto Death

I. Introduction & Definition—1st John 5:16-17

- A. A Sin Not Unto Death. ἁμαρτάνοντα ἁμαρτίαν μὴ πρὸς θάνατον (1st Jn. 5:16_{a,2},17).
- B. A Sin Unto Death. ἁμαρτία πρὸς θάνατον (1st Jn. 5:16b).
- C. The context is a confident prayer ministry based upon our life in Christ (1st Jn. 5:13-15).
 - 1. Intercessory prayer is prescribed for brothers sinning non-leading-to-death sin.
 - 2. We should never request that any brother is subject to the Sin Unto Death. Such a request is an ἐρωτάω request (1st Jn. 5:16b) rather than an αἰτέω request (1st Jn. 5:14,15_{x2},16a).
- D. All unrighteousness is sin, but there is sin that is non-leading-to-death sin (1st Jn. 5:17 cf. Rom. 6:23).
 - 1. The wages of sin is death.
 - 2. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - 3. What is a sin that doesn't lead to death? A sin that is forgiven!
- E. The antithesis of death as a purpose-consequence is the glory of God purpose-consequence (Jn. 11:4).
 - 1. Unrepentant, unconfessed sin results in operational death and premature physical death.
 - 2. Confessed sin restores operational life and extends physical life with the purpose-consequence of God's glory being achieved.

II. Illustrations

A. Illustrations of the Sin Unto Death.

- 1. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2; 1st Chr. 24:1-2). They're lines were ended, and Eleazar was not commanded to provide for their lines to be preserved.
- 2. Eli and his sons (1st Sam. 2:12-17,22-36; 3:1-21; 4:4-18).
- 3. Saul and his sons (1st Sam. 15:10-35; 31:1-7; 1st Chr. 10:13-14).
- 4. Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1-11).
- 5. Hymenaeus and Alexander (1st Tim. 1:20).

B. Illustrations of the Sin Unto Death judgment being stayed.

- 1. David's close call (2nd Sam. 12:13).
- 2. Hezekiah's close call (2nd Kgs. 20:1-11; Isa. 38:1-22).
- 3. The Corinthian man of incest (1st Cor. 5:5; 2nd Cor. 2:6-11).

C. Illustrations of the Sin Unto Death judgment being stayed, then reinstated.

- 1. Moses' deferment (Ex. 4:24) and later judgment (Deut. 32:48-52).
- 2. Balaam's deferment (Num. 22:31) and later judgment (Num. 31:8).

III. Summary & Conclusion

- A. The OT and the NT provide multiple illustrations for the Sin Unto Death.
- B. Illustrations are provided as warnings (1st Cor. 10:1-11).
- C. The bottom-line cause of Sin Unto Death is idolatry (1st Jn. 5:21).
 - 1. Ananias and Saphira pursued the idolatry of approbation-lust (Acts 5:1-11).
 - 2. Defiling the Lord's Supper is the idolatrous practice of eating the table of demons (1st Cor. 10:20-22; 11:30).
 - 3. Apostasy is the idolatrous practice of living the teachings of demons (Rev. 2:20-24 cf. 1st Tim. 4:1).