

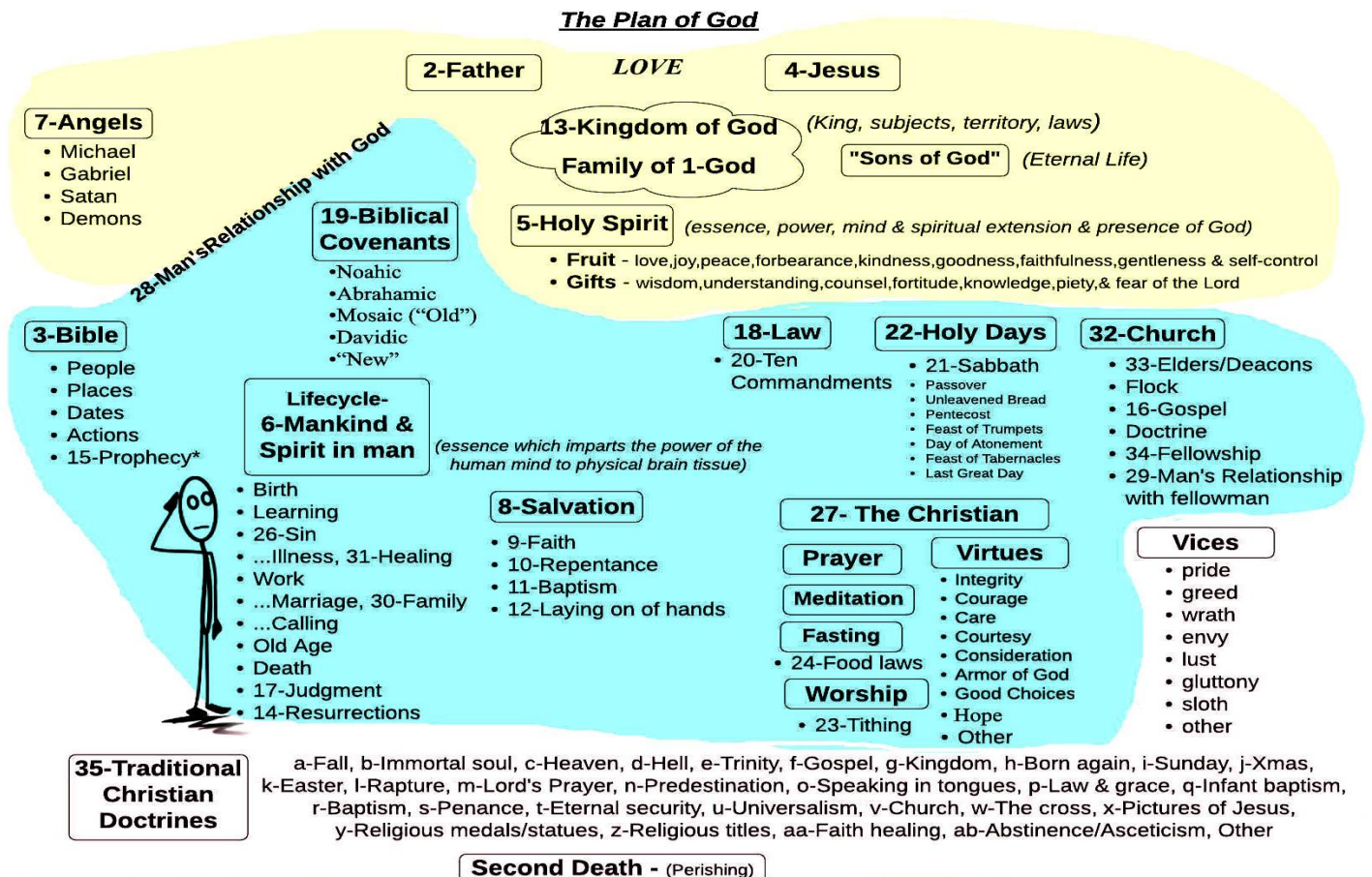
Unpardonable Sin?

Do you ever fear that you may have committed an unforgivable sin? Do you worry that you may have gone too far, that your fate is sealed, and no matter how hard you may try, or how badly you may want it, God will NEVER forgive you? Do you fear that you may have lost any hope of ever having salvation? If so, you need to understand what the Bible says about THE UNPARDONABLE SIN.

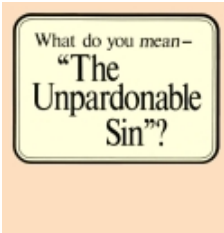
SIN (STP) - DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Sin is the transgression of God's law—the falling short or missing the mark of the perfect faithfulness exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ. Although the penalty for sin is death in the lake of fire, all sin can be completely forgiven by God who desires that all men be saved. (The **unpardonable sin** is a sin for which the sinner asks no pardon.) God forgives sin upon the repentance of the individual who accepts the shed blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment in full for the penalty of his sins.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:14; 1 John 3:4; 1 Peter 2:20-22; 1 John 2:6



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)



WCG

<https://www.hwalibrary.com/cgi-bin/get/hwa.cgi?action=getbklet&InfoID=1325338253>

CGI

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/50438d1dc4aa994481346f77/t/608882256cf56b77bbb4c422/1619558949760/What+Is+the+Unpardonable+Sin.pdf>

WHAT IS THE UNPARDONABLE SIN?

Do you ever fear that you may have committed an unforgivable sin? Do you worry that you may have gone too far, that your fate is sealed, and no matter how hard you may try, or how badly you may want it, God will never forgive you? Do you fear that you may have lost any hope of ever having salvation? If so, you need to understand what the Bible says about THE UNPARDONABLE SIN.

Is there a sin that God will not forgive? Many believe there is such a sin, and some fear they have committed it. Some say that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the unpardonable sin. But what is "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit"? Others say that deliberately sinning after having accepted Christ as Savior is unforgivable. But is it? Will God refuse to forgive such a sin, even if the sinner repents of his transgression?

they had to meet—before they could be saved. Notice Peter's answer: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (verse 36). Before one can receive the Holy Spirit, one must repent of his sins. Repentance, then, is necessary before the remission of sins is possible. Repentance, of course, must be accompanied by faith (belief) and followed by



SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY PROJECT

SIN

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

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Romans 6:23; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:14; 1 John 3:4; 1 Peter 2:20-22; 1 John 2:8

the Old Testament (1 Cor. 10:4; Deut. 32:15, 18) and as the Son of man and the Son of God in the New Testament—are the foundations of our biblical understanding of man's relationship to the law of God.

God's law in its fullest, most complete sense is spiritual and could not be discovered or discerned by man without direct revelation from God. The fullness of God's law involves every facet of personal and collective human existence. Though its expression may change as the circumstances change, the eternal spiritual law of God is unchanging and is always the ultimate object of any biblical code of law or instruction expressed in human language. God's laws are all designed to clarify a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of God and the ultimate purpose of life, and expressively give love

<https://www.cgicanada2.org/media/stp/STP+section+4.pdf>

UCG

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/what-unpardonable-sin>



What Is the Unpardonable Sin?

by Don Henson

Is there a sin that God won't forgive? Are there sins that are too bad to forgive? If so, what are they? What does the Bible teach about the unpardonable sin?

CoGWA

<https://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/sin/unpardonable-sin/>



UNITED CHURCH of GOD

What Is the Unpardonable Sin?

Christians sometimes throw around the phrase, "the unpardonable sin." Is there the sin that God cannot forgive? What is the unpardonable sin?

UCG Sermon Transcript



LCG

<https://www.tomorrowworld.org/magazines/2015/march-april/is-there-an-unpardonable-sin>

<https://www.tomorrowworld.org/magazines/2019/january-february/questions-and-answers>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgJSoN0Bwj0>

RCG - Restored

<https://rcg.org/realtruth/articles/160615-006.html>



This One Sin CANNOT Be Forgiven



Tomorrow's World

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PCG

<https://pcg.church/articles/393/the-unpardonable-sin>

https://media.thetrumpet.com/Literature/EN/R115_EN.pdf?80b9b6d00ca3aadcd44c0f71d5ed384

Thousands worry, because they do not understand what the sin is that shall never be forgiven. comes about through faith and obedience. When we are converted to eternal life, we will be totally composed of spirit and unable to sin (1 John 1:8).

Primary Scriptures referencing an unpardonable sin...

- **Mat 12:31-32** "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit** will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.
 - **Mar 3:28-30** "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"— because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."
 - **Luk 12:10** "& anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.
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- **Heb 6:4-6** For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, & have tasted the good word of God & the powers of the age to come, if they **fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, & put Him to an open shame.
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- **Heb 10:26-29** For if we **sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?
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Summary

The “unpardonable sin” doctrine is primarily built on a small group of key passages where Jesus and the apostles discuss:

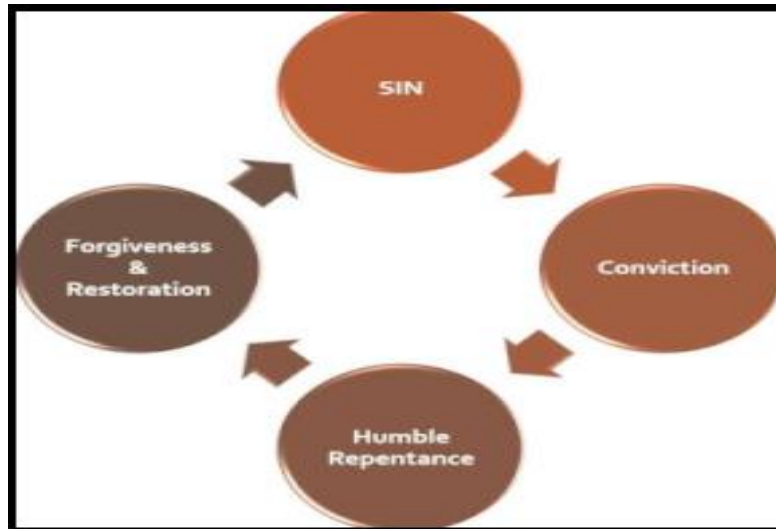
- 1 - **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit,**
- 2 - **Falling away after receiving knowledge of God,** and
- 3 - **Willful rejection of truth**

Possible Definitions ... The unpardonable sin is ...

- a sin that cannot or will not ever be forgiven
- the fearsome weapon of a sadistic God who refuses to forgive a poor sinner that made a few mistakes out of weakness
- the deliberate, knowledgeable, persistent rejection of God’s Holy Spirit and Christ’s sacrifice after receiving understanding & conviction, resulting in irreversible hardness & refusal to repent.



The “Normal” process for Forgiveness of Sin



The Way of Salvation

Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, & let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**; & you shall receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**

Definition of a Christian (... someone “saved”)

Rom 8:9 Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

God is Eager to Forgive...

Psalm 86:5 - For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, & abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

A foundational verse directly stating God is “ready to forgive.”

Nehemiah 9:17

But You are God,
Ready to pardon,
Gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger,
Abundant in kindness,
And did not forsake them.

Shows God’s eagerness to pardon even rebellious people.



Exodus 34:6–7 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity & transgression & sin...

This is one of the Bible’s central revelations of God’s character.



Micah 7:18–19 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity
And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His
heritage? He does not retain His anger forever,
Because He delights in mercy. He will again have
compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities.
You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.

God does not merely tolerate forgiving—He “delights in mercy.”

Psalm 103:8–12

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.



God Invites the Wicked to Return

Isaiah 55:6–7 “Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.”

“Abundantly pardon” strongly shows eagerness to forgive.

Ezekiel 18:21–23

But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.
None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him...
Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?’ says the Lord God, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?’

God prefers repentance & life over punishment.

Ezekiel 33:11

“‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways!’”

This reveals God’s heart toward sinners.

God Forgives Completely

Isaiah 1:18 ‘Come now, and let us reason together,’

Says the Lord,

‘Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.’”

Jeremiah 31:34 For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

Psalm 32:1–2

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity...”

John 3:16–17

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

God forgives the repentant through Christ

Luke 15:20–24 — The Prodigal Son

This parable powerfully demonstrates eagerness to forgive.

Key phrase: “But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him & had compassion, & ran & fell on his neck & kissed him.”

The father runs toward the repentant son before the son finishes confessing.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

One of the clearest New Testament promises of forgiveness.

God Wants All to Repent

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

1 Timothy 2:3–4

“God our Savior... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Luke 23:34

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Jesus demonstrated extraordinary forgiveness even while being crucified.



Unpardonable Sin ... Category 1 - **Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit**

Mat 12:22-32 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

Mat 12:23 & all the multitudes were amazed & said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

Mat 12:24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

Mat 12:25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

Mat 12:26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

Mat 12:27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

Mat 12:28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Mat 12:29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

Mat 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Mat 12:31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

Mat 12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

Mar 3:22-30 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons."

Mar 3:23 So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan?

Mar 3:24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Mar 3:25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Mar 3:26 And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end.

Mar 3:27 No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.

Mar 3:28 "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

Mar 3:29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"—

Mar 3:30 because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Luk 12:10 "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.

Building blocks toward understanding ...

Joh 3:1-2 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, **we know** that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."



Intent and deliberate rejection are the key issue

- The Greek idea of “blasphemy” is described as **intentional insult or contempt toward sacred things**.
- The Pharisees were portrayed as acting with **deliberate** hostility and **premeditated** resistance against what they knew was from God.

Repentance is ongoing change

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry but continually turning away from selfish human nature and toward obedience to God.

Christians are continually struggling against sin, Satan, and human nature.

Quenching behaviours...

- resisting God repeatedly,
- neglecting prayer/study,
- spiritual drifting,
- self-righteousness,
- bitterness,
- rebellion

Persistent resistance to God ... hardens the conscience

People can gradually “quench” or resist the Holy Spirit over time.

(1Th 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit)

Continued refusal to repent eventually destroys the desire to repent, making forgiveness impossible ... because repentance itself is rejected.

Non-Christians can potentially move toward this sin

The Pharisees were not converted Christians, yet Jesus warned them they were in danger of eternal judgment.

Therefore, anyone who knowingly and deliberately fights against God’s truth can move toward committing the unpardonable sin.

Ordinary temptation and struggle with sin **are not** the unpardonable sin

All Christians struggle with temptation and failure.

It encourages prayer, Bible study, resisting temptation, and relying on God’s help rather than despairing.

Major Area of Agreement in all of the Articles... The Unpardonable Sin Is NOT a Single Mistake

- It is not one accidental action.
- It is not a momentary lapse.
- It is not ordinary weakness.
- It is not struggling with temptation.

The dominant view ... The unpardonable sin (via blaspheming the Holy Spirit) is a hardened, knowing, deliberate rejection of God and His Spirit. Someone still seeking God & desiring forgiveness should not conclude they are beyond hope.

Unpardonable Sin Category 2 - **Falling away after receiving knowledge of God**

Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, & have tasted the good word of God & the powers of the age to come, if they **fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, & put Him to an open shame.



The phrase **fall away** means **“to abandon a former relationship”** (Louw and Nida Greek-English Lexicon). This passage warns that there is no way to renew repentance once it is rejected. If people knowingly and intentionally reject what Jesus has done for them by His sacrifice, they “hold him up to contempt” (verse 6, Revised Standard Version). And having rejected His sacrifice, there is no other sacrifice by which they can be saved (**Acts 4:12**).

The sin that cannot be forgiven is a sin of which a person does not want to repent. It is the act of rejecting the sacrifice of Christ and intentionally choosing sin over repentance, forgiveness and obedience.

It’s important to note that this is **not the same** as stumbling or going through a time of weakness in our life. That can happen to people, but they can repent and get back on the path of God’s way of life. To “fall away” is a much more conscious rejection of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice and making a conscious decision to embrace a sinful way of life. Someone who comes to this point fully understands the consequences of what he or she is doing—but simply does not care and will not change.

HWA Quote ... So, you do fall down a number of times — yet you are falling while still ON CHRIST'S ROAD, walking with Him. As long as you keep His Goal before your eyes — as long as you continue in the spiritual ATTITUDE — as long as you DESIRE to go God's Way — as long as you keep trying, & determined, YOU ARE STILL ON THAT ROAD! You are NOT CONDEMNED!

Proverbs 24:16 says, “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again.”

Psalms 37:23-24 tells us that “the steps of a good man are ordered [established] by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

In these two verses “fall” **doesn’t mean abandon**, but “stumble” or “slip”. In other words, even a righteous person will trip & fall. The key is to get back up and keep trying. God holds up and strengthens those who continue to strive to obey and live God’s way, even though they stumble at times.

Unpardonable Sin Category 3 - Willful rejection of truth

Heb 10:26-29 For if we **sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, & fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, & insulted the Spirit of grace?

The Key Distinction!

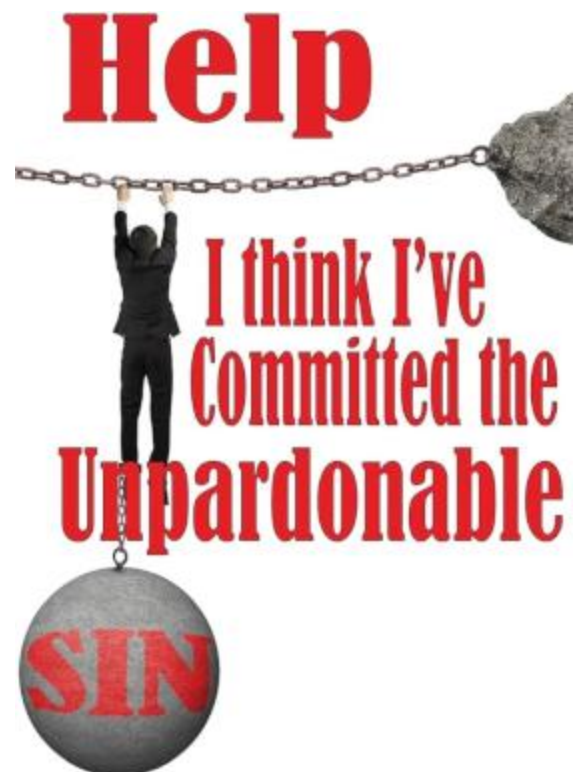
	<u>SINNING WILLFULLY</u>	<u>SINNING WILLINGLY</u>	
The sin that can't be forgiven is the intentional, willful sin of deciding to never repent again after having received a knowledge of the Truth and had God's Spirit work in one's life.	Fully deliberate act and attitude to never repent of sin.	Everyone sins willingly. - Rom 3:23	It is this sin that Christ died for. So that once a person repents and asks forgiveness, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." (1 John 1:9)
	Not blinded to the truth.	We are aware of what we're doing, and we're in control. But it is done in weakness, ignorance, deception or by habit.	
	They have a knowledge of the Truth, they know the effect of Christ's sacrifice and they profane it.	Even Christians who have repented of their previous way of life and accepted Jesus' sacrifice still fall short and sin willingly, yet in weakness and against their better judgment.	
	He or she has a conscience seared to do evil. - 1 Tim 4:2	Rom 7:19 "For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice."	

Attitudes associated with the unpardonable sin include:

- refusing to ask forgiveness
- refusing to forgive others
- refusing to repent
- deliberately rejecting Christ
- rejecting God's definition of good and evil
- resisting the Holy Spirit
- stubborn opposition to God

Reminder ...

- The unpardonable sin is a settled, deliberate hardening of the heart against God & His Spirit.
- As long as a person still desires forgiveness, seeks God, or wants to repent, there is hope & access to God's mercy through Christ



Key Characteristics of the Unpardonable Sin

- **Willful Rebellion:** It is a calculated, premeditated, and hostile rejection of God's Holy Spirit and commandments.
- **State of Unrepentance:** The core of this sin is that the individual fundamentally has no desire to repent, turn back to God, or ask for forgiveness.
- **A Seared Conscience:** The individual turns their back on the truth without sorrow, regret, or pangs of conscience.
- **Who Can Commit It:** This applies to those who have actively been part of the faith, received the Holy Spirit, and come to the knowledge of the truth—not to an unconverted person in the world.

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Usually Viewed As</u>
Ignorance	Forgivable
Weakness	Forgivable
Temporary backsliding	Forgivable
Deliberate permanent rejection	Unpardonable

The Result of the Unpardonable Sin

Because the person willfully and permanently shuts themselves off from the repentance process God established through Jesus Christ, their sacrifice is rendered null and void. The ultimate consequence is eternal death in the "lake of fire".

Final State = Permanent Refusal to Repent

- conscience hardened,
- Spirit extinguished,
- no desire to repent,
- deliberate rejection of God.

Comfort for the Believer

The scriptural Church of God teachings emphasize that if a person is worried that they have committed the unpardonable sin, **they almost certainly have not.** The very fact that someone feels guilt, wants to repent, & desires to return to God indicates that the Holy Spirit is still working with them.

Scripture warns against:

- bitterness
- resentment
- pride
- self-righteousness
- neglect of prayer
- resisting correction
- persistent known sin
- contempt for grace

Scripture encourages:

- humility
- repentance
- responsiveness to God
- perseverance