

Sins Against the Spirit

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Matthew 12:30-32; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20

Matthew 12:30-32

[30](#)Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. [31](#)Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. [32](#)And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Ephesians 4:29-32

[29](#)Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. [30](#)And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31](#)Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. [32](#)Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-23

[16](#)Rejoice always, [17](#)pray without ceasing, [18](#)give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. [19](#)Do not quench the Spirit. [20](#)Do not despise prophecies, [21](#)but test everything; hold fast what is good. [22](#)Abstain from every form of evil.

Background

In Matthew 12, Jesus warns against the “blasphemy” of the Holy Spirit, which he describes as an “unpardonable” sin. Many of us, if we are honest, have read that verse and been paralyzed with fear. An unpardonable sin? What does that even mean? Have I blasphemed the Spirit? What does that even look? If I have, what do I do now? These are all great questions that, when asked with a humility, help us better understand our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Today, Pastor David will not only examine three sins against the Holy Spirit – blaspheming, grieving, and quenching – but how we should respond to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Service Notes

July 24, 2022

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- How can we pray for you? What is one way you saw God working around you this week?

Talk it Over

- **Read Matthew 12:22-37.** What’s the context for Jesus’ teaching in this passage (vs. 22-23)? How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees’ accusation (vs. 25-29)? What is your first impression to Jesus’ description of an “unpardonable” sin (vs. 30-31)? How should we best understand what it means to “blaspheme” the Holy Spirit? Why is *this* sin unable to be forgiven? How would you best explain this to someone else? How does “blasphemy” against the Holy Spirit relate to the tree/fruit metaphor Jesus uses (vs. 33-37)? Do you think repentant followers of Jesus can commit blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? What, then, is the warning (or encouragement) for followers of Jesus?
- **Read Ephesians 4:25-32.** What do you think it means to *grieve* the Spirit (vs. 30)? How does the surrounding context (vs. 17-29; 31-32) shape our understanding? How can we know IF or HOW we have grieved the Holy Spirit? Why would an unholy lifestyle, sinful actions and attitude “sadden” or grieve the Holy Spirit? How does grieving the Holy Spirit affect our relationship with God? How should followers of Jesus respond when they know they have grieved the Holy Spirit?
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-23.** The word “quench” carries the idea of dousing a flame with water. Can you describe a time when you were incredibly excited about something, but someone said/did something that “threw cold water” on it? How does this relate to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? What are some ways we can “throw water” on the Holy Spirit’s work in us and through us? How could we *unintentionally* “quench” the Spirit at work in someone else? What would it look like to “fan into flame” the Spirit in our lives? How can we be more aware of our words, thoughts, and actions that *could* hinder the ministry of the Spirit?

Live it Out

- What habitual action/attitude that grieves/quenches the Spirit’s work are you currently wrestling with? What is one step of obedience you need to take this week in this area?