

## THE SIN UNTO DEATH

Request Bible Study (RBS): “What is the sin that leads to death in 1 John 5:16?”

John concluded the Epistle of First John with an overview of the following six important doctrines in 1 John 5:13-21.

- Eternal Life (1 John 5:13)
- Prayer (1 John 5:14-15)
- Sin unto Death (1 John 5:16-17)
- Victory over Satan (1 John 5:18-19)
- Positional Truth (1 John 5:20)
- Warning against Idolatry (1 John 5:21)

Notice that I have combined the doctrines of prayer and sin unto death in our lesson text (1 John 5:14-17). I noticed that John used the word ask (aiteo) [5 times] to connect these two doctrines together (1 John 5:14, 15, 16).

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Confidence – ask - God’s will (1 John 5:14) 1 time
- Confidence – ask – God gives (1 John 5:15) 3 times
- Committing a sin not unto death – ask – God will give him life (1 John 5:16a) 1 time
- Committing a sin unto death – do not request (erotao) “I do not say that he should make a request for this.” (1 John 5:16b-17)

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**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the Sin unto Death doctrine in order to answer the request.**

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### **1. The sin unto death is a principle of sin rather than a specific sin in a reversionistic Christian’s life (Rom.8:5-8; Gal.6:7-8; Eph.4:17-20).**

By principle of sin, we are referring to an unchecked continuance in reversionism or a state of reversionism (1John 5:16; 1 Cor.5; Phil.3:17-19).

We will break down **1John 5:16** into four parts to examine its meaning in CWL.

“**If** (3cc) **anyone** [Spiritual Mature Believer] **see** (horao / a.a.subj) [see with the mind] **his brother committing a sin** (hamartano / p.a.ptc) **not leading to death** (thanatos) [not in a state of reversionism]. He shall ask (aiteo / f.a.ind) [petition] **and God will for him give** (didomi / f.a.ind) **life** (zoe / ph.II) **to those who commit a sin** (p.a.ptc) **not leading to death. There is** (eimi / p.a.ind) **a sin leading to** (eis+acc) [face to face] **death** [state of reversionism]. **“I do not say that he should make request** (erotao / a.a.subj) [intercessory] **for this.”**

**Reversionism:** It is retrogression from any stage of spiritual growth as a result of negative volition expressed by disobedience towards the revealed will of God (Heb.3:12; Prov.14:14) [backslide].

**Sin unto Death:** It is the means by which a reversionistic believer is transferred from time to eternity under maximum divine discipline.

## 2. The sin unto death is the final stage of divine discipline in Christian Way of Life (CWL)

### Example: Jonah:

- **Stage One:** In a boat on a violent sea - 1:4,11
  - The starting Divine Discipline (Heb.12:5; 2 Tim.3:16; Rev.3:19-20; James 5:19-20).
- **Stage Two:** At the bottom of a calm sea, with seaweed wrapped around his head and a sea monster coming for him – 1:15; 2:5 and 10).
  - Scouring Discipline (Heb.12:6; 1 Thess.5:14; 2 Thess.3:6, 14-15).
- **Stage three** is the sin unto death (1 John 5:16; 1 Cor.5:5; 1 Cor.11:30-32) [sleep].

(Heb.12:6) “For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines.”

(Heb.12:7) “It is for discipline that you endure.”

(Heb.12:9) “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live?”

(Heb.12:10) “For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplined us for our good, that we may share His holiness.” (Josh.3:5) [qadas / holy or consecrated]

## 3. A reversionistic believer can be experiencing divine discipline and still be active in church attendance.

The Exodus Israelites wandering in the wilderness would provide us with an example: harden hearts, rebellion, tested and tried Me, sinful, unbelieving heart, hearts always going astray, turn away from living God, deceitfulness of sin, disobedient (Heb.3-4).

The question might be “what responsibility does a Spiritual Mature Believer have towards one of these individuals?” (Gal.6:1-5; James 5:15-20; Jude 23)

**Intercessory prayer** (1 John 5:14-17) [for one NOT under the sin unto death]

- |           |                |                   |      |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------|------|
| • Abraham | Gen.18:20-23   | Sodom             | Lot  |
| • Moses   | Num.14:2-12    | Exodus generation | Land |
| • David   | 2 Sam.12:12-23 | Child             | Live |

## 4. The Sin unto Death is not the loss of salvation, but rather the loss of one’s allotted time on earth (ph.II).

- Phase I The plan of God of salvation (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).
- Phase II The plan of God of CWL (Phil.1:20-25).
- Phase III The plan of God of believer in eternity (2 Tim.4:7-8).

On the blank lines, write five additional descriptions of reversionism that could lead to the sin unto death.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 5:5; Eph.6:1-4).

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor.10:5; Heb.3:17).

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam.25:36-38).

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor.5:5; 1 Tim.1:19-20).

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor.10:10; 2 Pet.2:1).

[Phase I and III are not effected by the sin unto death (John 10:28; Col.3:3)].

**5. Recovery from the sin unto death involves a process of Spiritual Restoration from reversionism to spiritual maturity (Heb.5:11-6:4).**

**This process involves these three important elements (Luke 15:17/ sick of it; 28/ not sick of it)**

- **Confession of personal sin** (homologeo) mental attitude sins; sins of the tongue and overt sins  
1 John 1:9; Heb.12:9; 1 Cor.11:28-32.
- **Change of mind** (metanoia) regarding choices in life that are in opposition to the revealed will of God in your life. Rom.8:5-8; 2 Cor.12:20-21.
- **Correction of “cosmos diabolicus thinking”** (evil thinking which is in opposition to God’s will)  
Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2; Heb.5:11-14.