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Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

# The “unforgivable sin”

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Matthew 12:30–31 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>31</sup> Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.**

# The “unforgivable sin”

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Luke 12:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, **but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.**

# The “unforgivable sin”

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Mark 3:28–30 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup> “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter,  
<sup>29</sup> **but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin**” —  
<sup>30</sup> for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

# The “unforgivable sin”

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1 John 1:7–9 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son **cleanses us from all sin.** <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

# The Context

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Matthew 12:22–24 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. <sup>23</sup> And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” <sup>24</sup> **But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”**

# The Context

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Matthew 12:38–39 (ESV)

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, **“Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.”**

<sup>39</sup> But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

# What does it mean to blaspheme?

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- *βλασφημία* *blasphēmía*; from 989; *slander*:—*abusive language*(1), *blasphemies*(4), *blasphemous*(2), *blasphemy*(6), *railing*(1), *slander*(3), *slanders*(1).
  - Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

# What does it mean to blaspheme?

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Numbers 15:30–31 (NASB95)

30 'But the person **who does anything defiantly**, whether he is native or an alien, **that one is blaspheming the LORD**; and that person shall be cut off from among his people.

31 '**Because he has despised the word of the LORD and has broken His commandment**, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt *will be on him.*' "

# Godly Sorrow & Repentance

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2 Corinthians 7:8–10 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup> As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but **because you were grieved into repenting.** For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

<sup>10</sup> **For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.**

# Godly Sorrow & Repentance

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1 John 1:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 4:11–12 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, **so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.** <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, **piercing to the division of soul and of spirit**, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

# Godly Sorrow & Repentance

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Hebrews 3:7–11 (ESV)

- <sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice,  
<sup>8</sup> **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,**  
<sup>9</sup> where **your fathers put me to the test and saw my works** for forty years.  
<sup>10</sup> Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘**They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.**’  
<sup>11</sup> As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’ ”

# Godly Sorrow & Repentance

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Hebrews 6:4–6 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> **For it is impossible**, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, **to restore them again to repentance**, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and **holding him up to contempt**.

# Godly Sorrow & Repentance

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Hebrews 10:26–29 (ESV)

**<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,** <sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, **and has outraged the Spirit of grace?**

# Godly Sorrow & Repentance

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Luke 16:27–31 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup> And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup> But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; **let them hear them.**’

<sup>30</sup> And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, **but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.**’ <sup>31</sup> He said to him, ‘**If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.**’ ”

# The Possible Process

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- Resist the Spirit – Acts 7:51-52
- Quench the Spirit – 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- Grieve the Spirit – Ephesians 4:30
- Insult the Spirit – Hebrews 10:29
- Blaspheme the Spirit – Matthew 12:31-32

See [http://executableoutlines.com/hs/hs\\_12.htm](http://executableoutlines.com/hs/hs_12.htm) for further thought regarding this process

# We must Submit to the Spirit/Word

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Acts 7:51–52 (ESV)

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, **you always resist the Holy Spirit**. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup> **Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One**, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

# We must Submit to the Spirit/Word

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Romans 8:16–17 (ESV)

**<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,** <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.