

What is the unpardonable sin? The definition comes from Matthew 12:31-32. It is the utter rejection of Christ unto death. It is a sin that no true believer of Jesus Christ will commit. The one who commits the unpardonable sin cannot be pardoned because he rejects Christ and seeks no pardon in the first place.

1 Matthew 12:22-30: Foolishness of Rejection

A man, possessed by the devil, was physically and spiritually afflicted. However, Christ not only healed the man of his blindness and dumbness, Christ also cast the devil out of him. The people and the Pharisees responded differently. First, “*all the people were amazed*” (Matt 12:23), leading them to the correct conclusion that Christ is indeed the Messiah. Second, the Pharisees accused Christ: “*...This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils*” (Matt 12:24).

The Pharisees’ statement was invalid, because if Christ used the power of Beelzebub (i.e. He was of Beelzebub), He would not have cast out one of His own. In Matthew 12:25-30, Jesus broke down their assumption, showing that their problem was not an intellectual problem but a problem of the heart.

If you are not with Christ, you are already against Him. There is no middle ground.

2 Matthew 12:31-32: Severity of Rejection

Rejection brings about serious consequences. The Lord is willing (and able) to forgive all manner of sin and blasphemy, and this shows the graciousness and mercy of God. It is one thing to reject a tyrant master, but it is another to reject a loving Lord and Saviour. However, the rejection is not just in word, but in heart. If a person does not seek Christ and does not repent, he will not be forgiven. But the seeking of Christ for repentance does not come from our own accord. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sins and to repent. When a person truly confesses his sins, receives Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, and repents of his sins, it will be reflected in his life, i.e. his words and actions.

3 Matthew 12:33-37: Revelation of Rejection

An image of a tree is used to show that we are either a good tree or a bad one. There is no middle ground. Choose to submit to God’s authority, or continue in corruption. A good tree brings forth good fruit. Good actions reveal a good heart. To make sure our fruit is good, we must begin from the heart. It does not begin with the external. No matter how much we pretend on the outside that our heart is good, we may be able to fool those around us, but we will never be able to fool God.

Do not commit the unpardonable sin. Do not reject Christ. Truly confess your sins, and receive Him as your Lord and Saviour today.

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