

The Study of 1 John: Joy Through Abiding Fellowship **The Sin unto Death – 1 John 5:16-21**

The Sin unto Death.

"16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. 18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

(1 John 5:16–21)

"Sin unto Death."

Death: Physical, Spiritual, or Second death.

Sin: This word is singular and, therefore, a specific sin.

"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." (Matthew 12:31-32)

1. There is a sin (singular) that does lead to death.
2. There are sins (plural) that do not lead to death.
3. All unrighteousness is sin, but not all sins lead to death.
4. Everyone born of God does not sin. (Believers don't abandon Christ)
The believer is protected from Satan and the Spirit of antichrist.
5. All believers know who God is and that Jesus is eternal life.
6. The apparent non sequitur; "*keep yourselves from idols.*"

Conclusion: The sin that leads to death is the rejection of Christ and the truth of eternal life through him. The true believer in Jesus **cannot** denounce Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. According to our study, what is the sin unto death?
2. Who can and cannot commit the sin unto death?
3. Discuss idolatry and its impact on the believer's life.