

## Chapter 10 “Sins Against The Holy Spirit” The Holy Spirit – Graham

### *Blaspheming the Holy Spirit*

The worst sin of all

There is no forgiveness

**Committed by unbelievers**

“the unpardonable sin”

“Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come.” (Matthew 12:31,32)

Billy Graham’s understanding

So long as the Spirit strives with a person he has not committed the unpardonable sin.

But when a person has so resisted the Holy Spirit that he strives with Him no more, then there is eternal damage.

The unpardonable sin involves the total and irrevocable rejection of Jesus

Stephen’s sermon before being stoned to death (Acts 7:51)

“You...who are stiff-necked...are always resisting the Holy Spirit”

OT – those who opposed the prophets (people inspired by the Holy Spirit) essentially are opposing the Holy Spirit

(p. 155) “Now the fatal infection of sin in the hearts of *unregenerate* people will always cause them to resist the Holy Spirit. The flesh and the *reprobate* mind always fight Him. When people do this, they will not receive the Word of God in its power unless the Holy Spirit gains victory over them.”

Resisting the Spirit is a sin committed only by unbelievers. But it is a sin that, when carried on long enough, leads to eternal doom.

The only way any sinner can be forgiven for resisting the Holy Spirit is to cease resisting and to embrace Jesus Christ, to whom the Spirit bears witness.

Warning to all Christians (especially pastors, teachers, evangelists) – Let the Holy Spirit and God the Father make the decision as to when someone has committed the unpardonable sin – the complete rejection of the witness of the Holy Spirit to the saving power of Jesus Christ

**Two sins** committed by **Christian Believers** against the Holy Spirit

1) Grieving the Holy Spirit

2) Quenching the Holy Spirit

### ***Grieving the Holy Spirit***

Paul warns his readers that they are not to “**grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)

Grieve – a “love” word

The Holy Spirit loves us just as Christ did

(Romans 15:20) “Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the **love of the Spirit**, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me”

Grieve a person who loves us

How do Christians grieve the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 4:20-32

- 1.) conduct
- 2.) speech
- 3.) disposition

Ruth Paxson, author – the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of:

- 1.) Truth (John 14:17) false, deceitful, hypocritical
- 2.) Faith (2 Cor. 4:13) doubt, distrust, anxiety, worry
- 3.) Grace (Heb 10:29) bitterness, ungracious, unforgiving, unloving, malicious
- 4.) Holiness (Rom. 1:4) anything unclean, defiling, or degrading

What happens when the Holy Spirit is grieved?

The ministry of the Spirit is impaired (suspended) in the person’s life

Lose the sense of the Holy Spirit’s presence (Psalm 51:11)

Absence of joy and power (spiritual) in our lives

\*not abandoned by the Holy Spirit because as Christian believers, we are sealed in the Holy Spirit

### ***Quenching the Holy Spirit***

(I Thess. 5:19) “Do not quench the Spirit”

- 1.) withdraw the fuel supply – fail to pray, witness, or read the Word of God
- 2.) extinguish the fuel supply – willful sin often when there is a fresh, new, or different movement of the Spirit of God – not using the old traditional methods in proclamation or service

Billy Graham’s point: “No Christian must sin. Yet, conversely, he has not been rendered incapable of sinning. I believe a Christian can sin, but he does not have to.

“Resist not His (Holy Spirit) incoming; grieve not His indwelling; quench not His outgoing. Open to Him as the Incomer; please Him as the Indweller; obey Him as the Outgoer in His testimony of the things concerning Christ, whether through yourself or others.”