

IS ALL SIN EQUAL

Scripture is: 1 John 5:16

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

IS ALL SIN EQUAL ?

1 John 5:16 ¹⁶ If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

1. Rejecting Jesus Christ – we know is a sin unto spiritual death?
 2. Whether the bible is speaking of this here we cannot say for sure.
 3. But one thing we know for sure is that there is a sin unto death, and there is a sin not unto death.
- ❖ That means and proves right there that all sin is NOT EQUAL.

How many time have you heard people say that if you.....steal a pencil or tell a white lie.....it is the same as if you have committed murder or adultery or one of those other big sins?

Well I am here today to tell you from the bible that it is simply not the case and not true.

- ❖ All sin is not equal, even though you might have been brought up to believe that.

Let me prove that to you from the bible.....

- ❖ Remember the sermon I preached two Sundays ago on Hell?
- ❖ Where was the first mention of Hell in the Bible.....let me see who was listening....Deut 32:22.....right?

Deuteronomy 32:22

For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

1. So if the bible says that there is a lowest hell? Then there must be a punishment to fit the crime?
2. Or why would there be a lowest hell?
3. Psalm 86:13 For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

- ❖ Then again in the NT. We see another testimony by Jesus speaking of those who have sin. So what did Jesus have to say?

John 19:11

Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

1. Jesus said himself there is a greater sin?
2. What about the sin against the Holy Ghost? How bad is that sin? Is it the same as stealing a pencil?

In the time of Moses God commanded people to be stoned to death for certain sins that they committed and yet in other times when they stole from others.....they were commanded to pay back fourfold or even more.....but they never received the death penalty for those sins?

1. If you steal anything, even if it is your bosses time or you commit a crime? – That's what sin is.
 2. The bible calls stealing a sin? Right?
 3. If you commit 1st degree murder, or rape? That's a crime right? In Gods eyes also? That too is sin?
 4. But look how God judges those two sins. The one gets stoned to death and the other is given a lesser punishment?
 5. Those that stole were given a lesser punishment; they were commanded to pay back 4 fold or whatever the Lord commanded Moses?
 6. So then how can all sin be equal?
- If sin was all the same then why is there different punishments for different offences listed in the bible?
 - Why not then one punishment for all? Why not kill everyone from the least to the greatest offence.

Look at some scriptures with me.....on this subject of Sin.

Lamentations 4:6

For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.

- ❖ Jesus also compared this to other sins that were committed in the NT speaking about Capernaum.

Matthew 11:22-24 ²² But I say unto you, **it shall be more tolerable** for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

²³ **And thou, Capernaum**, which art exalted unto heaven, **shalt be brought down to hell**: for **if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.**

²⁴ **But I say unto you**, That **it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.**

The sins that Capernaum had been involved in were so great that Jesus said that if it was in the time of Sodom, it would not even make Sodom look evil. That's how bad it was. Jesus was comparing the sins done in Sodom to the sins done in Capernaum.

Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom were ancient cities which had for a long time been wicked and evil, as we can read about in Genesis 18-19. Each of these cities was destroyed by God for its evil. Even though the people of Chorazin, and Capernaum saw Jesus at first hand they stubbornly refused to turn to Jesus and believe on him. Therefore Jesus said that if the same preaching had been done in Sodom in that day, they would have repented. Therefore Jesus said to them:- **it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.**

7. We already saw when I preached on Hell that there are different levels to Hell where the wrath of God kindles the fires of Hell, and where the certain evil and wicked are cast?
 - ❖ So if all sin was equal why are there different punishments for the unbeliever? Why would there even be a lowest hell?
8. In three of the gospels Jesus warns the Pharisees of their judgment to come when he said to them concerning the widows.

Matthew 23:14

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for **a pretence make long prayer**: therefore ye shall receive the **greater damnation**.

Mark 12:40

Which devour widows' houses, and for **a pretence make long prayers**: these shall receive **greater damnation**.

Luke 20:47

Which devour widows' houses, and **for a shew make long prayers**: the same shall receive **greater damnation**.

- A. Let me bring this more onto perspective. The Pharisees were using Gods name in vain to deceive the widows and to achieve their own agenda. It is for this reason that they would receive the greater damnation for doing things in the name of God when it was really for themselves,
- B. And was not even in scripture it was manmade laws forced upon those poor widows, who did not have husbands to protect them from these generation of vipers. Remember a widow was to be cared for when she was threescore and above who served the Lord.

- ❖ But these Pharisees did not stop there. They saw an opportunity to deceive.

Matthew 23:32-34 ³² Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. ³³ **Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?** ³⁴ Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

- Jesus said with sin comes punishment which is the judgment by which they will be met.
- Their punishment was hell. And Jesus lists the sins that they would do to people in the coming days.

- ✓ Well now is the time for me to tell you what the sin is against the Holy Ghost. Remember what the scripture said.

Matthew 12:31

Wherefore I say unto you, **All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**

9. When a person blasphemes the Holy Ghost the bible says that; that person cannot receive forgiveness, not in this world nor the next.
- ❖ So the question is why then is there a sin which is greater than another as mentioned here in this case?
 - ✓ So how can all sins be equal as **people have led you to believe?**
 - ✓ I will tell you why?
 - ✓ But I must also tell you that exactly for this reason here, where men call all sin equal **is the reason** why there is **no accountability to God any more**, no accountability to their parents any more, no accountability to their teachers, and also **no accountability to them that have rule over you?**

Hebrews 13:7

Remember them which have the **rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God**: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the **rule over you**, and **submit yourselves**: for they **watch for your souls**, as they that must give account, **that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.**

- ✓ If you don't want to listen to those who watch for your souls, then hey be my guest because you will expose yourself to Satan. Who walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? And if you are there you are his target. He is going to shoot his fiery arrow into you and you will be deceived.
- ✓ The bible says here in Hebrews 13:7, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: **for that is unprofitable for you.**
- ✓ **But the reason why people have got the attitude they have is because they cannot make a distinction between sins.**
- ✓ **Therefore if every sin is the same I can carry on supporting my lifestyle the way it is and who is going to tell me any different as to how I should live my life.**
- ✓ **God forbid Paul tells us in (Romans 6ff) that we should live that way. Do you want God to chastise you every step of the way, because he will if you are his child?**
- ✓ So disobedience comes simply because people have CALLED ALL SIN EQUAL and treat every sin the same. And that's wrong and not true at all. So if you steal a pen or lie to someone, or even if you commit murder is it the same thing?

The bible does teach that all unrighteousness is sin; it does not say that all sin is equal though. Show me one verse in the bible where it says that all sin is equal. You can't

because there is none. Moses said it and Jesus said it that there are greater sins and greater damnations and a lower hell.

1 John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

- The closest thing to say that all sin is equal that I could find in the scriptures is in James 2:10.

James 2:7-13

⁷ Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? ⁸ If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

⁹ But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ **For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.** ¹¹ For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

¹² So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

1. What James 2:10 in the context of this passage is talking about is that if anyone is trying to keep the law (10 commandments) that God gave to Moses, and if they just broke one of those laws then they would be found guilty of breaking the law, and would fall into condemnation. So by breaking even one of Gods commandments you were guilty of sin, even under the law.
 2. But in contrast to that in verse 13, God will have mercy on those who have come for his mercy in Jesus Christ.
 3. James 2:10 does NOT say that all sin is equal my friend. It is saying what Romans 3:23 tells us. ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- ✓ There is a false doctrine out there my friend that teaches that it is unfair for God to send people to hell if they never had a chance to believe in Jesus.
 - ✓ Well that's incorrect doctrine my friend because the bible says that the reason why they will end up in hell is because they are sinners. God is just by sending them to hell because of their sin, and not believing in Jesus for forgiveness.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- ✓ It is Jesus who washes us by his blood, and takes away that sin, once and for all.
 - ✓ If they do not believe then their wages of death is due to them.
 - ✓ They get what they deserve because they have sinned against the Almighty and Holy God, and because they have not believed on Jesus for forgiveness. (John 3:18)
 - ✓ Now when they believe on Jesus, they the sinner are made righteous.
- **So why is it a "Greater SIN" to blaspheme the Holy Ghost?**

Well first of all let me say this before I answer that question?

1. Jesus Christ forgave every sin except for the sin against the Holy Ghost?
2. The scripture just said he will not forgive anyone neither in this world nor the next if you blaspheme against the Holy Ghost.
3. Does that mean that the bible is contradicting itself then? – NO. It means that you have not read your bible my friend, because you will then know what the bible says to that? Jesus stated the condition to which he would not forgive sin. The sin of unbelief.
4. They said that Jesus was casting out the devils, because he was casting them out by the prince of devils and that he had an evil spirit. (referring to the Holy Ghost).

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

Romans 5:9

Much more then, **being now justified by his blood**, we **shall be saved from wrath through him.**

5. If we are saved, we are spared from the wrath to come, through Jesus our Lord.

❖ Now turn with me to Mark 3: 30.

Mark 3:28-30²⁸ Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: ²⁹ But he that shall **blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.**

³⁰ **Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.** (referring to the Holy Spirit)

- ❖ The sin against the Holy Ghost could not be forgiven because they said that Jesus had an unclean spirit. They accused him of having devils and evil spirits in him.
- ❖ But as a believer Jesus cleanses us from ALL SIN 1John 1:7 as we read in the scriptures.
- ❖ So as a believer we are told not to have the spirit of fear because Jesus has given us the peace of God not the wrath of God. (John 14:27).

Next I want to speak about the greater damnation and similar verses describing the different sins that one can commit.....

1. Like presumptuous sins. – Pre planned knowingly sins. Psalm 19:12-14.
2. Sinning through ignorance. Leviticus 4:ff, and 5:17.

Numbers 15 ff.

²⁹ **Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance**, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

³⁰ But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

³¹ Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

³² And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. ³³ And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. ³⁴ And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. ³⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

³⁶ And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

1. We saw in Leviticus 4 the sin that was through ignorance how it was judged by the Lord,
 2. We saw also in Numbers 15 how the sin though presumption was judged by the Lord differently.
 3. So again how can sins be equal? If the punishment is not equal.....
- ✓ Another reason why All SIN cannot be equal is because of another scripture in Revelation.

Revelation 20:11-13

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

(he is going to tell us a second time watch this.....)

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

1. Let me ask you this question: Will all the people whose names were not written in the book of life be cast into the lake of fire? Yes they will be....
2. How is it then if all sin is not equal that every man will be judged according to his own works?
3. If they were just sinners and not sinners exceedingly then would they not just have all been lumped into one lot and cast into the lake of fire and not have their sins listed to them as Rev 21:8 showed us?

4. **Not so**; because we see that they were all judged according to their works? Remember these are the unsaved being judged here at the great white throne judgment of God.

In revelation 21: we see the judgment of God again upon the wicked. Notice how God names the sins of the people. Why because all sin is not equal. Therefore God lists the reasons as to what they have done. A sin is a sin for sure, but they are not all equal because they don't carry equal punishment.

Revelation 21:8

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

- ❖ **People born are on their way to hell because they have sinned and come short of the glory of God.**
- ❖ **The only reason they wont end up in hell is if they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.**

Romans 3:23 & John 3:18 explains this well.

Romans 3:23 ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

John 3:18 ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1. Some people say we don't go to hell to be punished for our sins.
 2. They say we only go to hell if we have rejected Jesus Christ.
 3. Whilst that seems right on the surface it is not biblically correct doctrine.
 4. Because what about the person in the jungle who did not hear the gospel what about him. Shame poor him, why send him to hell they say.....
- ✓ It is true that to be saved you must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And that's all you have to do to be saved. The scripture says what must I do to be saved, and it says believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved.
 - ✓ Here in Acts 16:30-32 is the question asked about salvation from scripture, and the answer all in one.

Acts 16:30-32 ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

³¹ And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**, and thy house.

5. And that's all you have to do to be saved. Jesus said I give unto you eternal life. If it is eternal then that means it is forever. So when you call upon the name of the Lord salvation is forever.
6. **Woe unto those** that says you can lose you salvation. You are a liar and the truth is not in you? (see also 1John 2: ⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

John 10:28 And **I give unto them eternal life**; and **they shall never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

- ✓ **How can it be possible to lose your salvation when the scripture says you can't!!!!**
- ✓ **Woe unto you Pharisee: The bible does not teach that you can loose your salvation. It says you are sealed forever. Check out the next verse.**

Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

- ✓ Do you think God would take away that seal of salvation once he has sealed that which he has given to His Son Jesus Christ?
 - ✓ Not even Satan himself can pluck him out of Gods hand my friend.
7. The reason why people or that person in the jungle who has not heard the gospel go to hell is because of the sins that they have committed period.

The bible says also in John 3:18

John 3:18 ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but **he that believeth not is condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- 8. But thanks be to God, that Jesus is able to save them from their sins and from going to hell if they would call upon his name.
- 9. And doesn't it make sense that in Rev 21:8 why God is sending them to hell because of their sin. As God lists all their sins.....**fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars.**

This proves again that all sin is not equal.

Then also in Luke 12:47-51(When Jesus spoke about the disobedient servant). Jesus said the servant who did not know would be beaten with few stripes as opposed to the servant who did know would be beaten with many stripes. Proving again the difference in judging sin.

- ❖ Because if all sin was equal then all people would receive the same punishment.

Then again look with me in Genesis 13:13

Genesis 13:13 ¹³ But the men of Sodom were wicked and **sinner before the LORD exceedingly.**

❖ So we have proved from scripture that there are differences between sins:

1. sinners before the Lord exceedingly, (Genesis 13:13).
2. and we have proved there is a greater sin, (John 19:11, Lamentations 4:6).
3. and a greater damnation, (Matt 23:14, Mark 12:40, Luke 20:47).
4. and we have proved there is the lowest Hell. (Deut 32:22, Psalm 86:13).

✓ So

NOT ALL SIN IS EQUAL

PRAYER.....CLOSE