

That You May Know

The Sin Unto Death — 1 John 5:16-19
July 7, 2019

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. - **1 John 5:16**

I. A PRAYER THAT BRINGS LIFE

- John has just told us that prayers according to God's will are answered in the affirmative (1 John 5:15).
- Prayers for life for those who have committed sin or sins leading to death are not according to God's will (Jer. 7:16; Ezek. 3:27, 11:14, 14:11).
- John does not tell us we cannot pray for certain people, but he does seem to say that we do not need to feel compelled to pray for all people (Matt. 7:6; Luke 22:31-32).

II. SINS THAT KILL

- Some sins are more serious than others. Some sins lead to a hardened heart - and some hardened hearts will never recover (Ex. 7:14, 22; John 19:10-11; 2 Peter 2).
- In context, it is likely that John has in mind here the false teachers who had denied the Name of Jesus and had willfully led people astray (1 John 2:18-27, 4:7, 5:12).
- Although it is possible that John here is speaking of sins that lead to physical death, it is more likely that he has in mind spiritual death (Luke 9:24; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 5:5, 11:30; 2 Cor. 7:10).
- True believers have hope and confidence that they will never commit the sin(s) that lead to death, because Jesus keeps them safe (Luke 22:31-32; Rom. 8:31-39; Phil. 1:6).
- There is clear distinction between those who have been redeemed, and those who have not. One is safe in Christ, the other is in the power of the evil one (John 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4).

KNOW: We know that we are to pray for sinners, and we know that we cannot see into human hearts. We must be men and women who engage in prayer. We must know the realities of this life. We are in a battle, and the world lies under the power of the evil one.

DO: Pray, seek the good of others, and open your eyes to spiritual realities.

Suggested Reading:

Praying the Bible by Donald S. Whitney (LifePoint Library #248.32 WHI)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 5:16-19

1. What is John's main point in this section of the text? What do you think he is trying to get across to the reader?
2. How do you normally respond when you see a brother (or sister) in sin?
3. What are your thoughts on the sin that leads to death? Is it physical or spiritual death, or both?
4. John tells us that "everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning." Is that an encouragement to you, or does it make you question your faith?
5. Ultimately, who keeps us from sins that lead to death? (see vs. 18).
6. What application is there for you from this text?