

Shayla: If one has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, then can that one commit the ‘unforgivable sin’?

Meforshim:

The quick answer is no. The only time the Bible discusses an unforgivable sin we see it associated with “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.”¹ What exactly is the Holy Spirit’s role? What does He do that we could blaspheme against Him? Christ said,

- John 15:26 HCSB "When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father--the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father--He will testify about Me.

This gives us our clue. The Holy Spirit constantly points toward the atoning work of Christ. He always speaks of the Son and directs us to accept His Lordship.

Since it is only through the finished work of Christ that we may receive forgiveness, refusing the Spirit’s message of salvation by grace through faith in Christ means you are in fact refusing to be forgiven. We see this upheld in:

- Luke 12:8-10 HCSB "And I say to you, anyone who acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God, 9 but whoever denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. 10 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Accepting Christ as Savior is thus accepting forgiveness. It is responding correctly to the saving message of the Holy Spirit. This is the exact opposite of committing the “unforgivable sin.”

So the question is actually “Is this still possible after accepting Christ as Savior?” Can we undo our decision? Can we lose our salvation? Again, the answer is no. But to support that answer, consider that Apostle John stated that we can know for a fact that we have eternal life.² That would be impossible if we were in constant danger of losing our salvation.

Job was sure that even if he died he would be redeemed³ as was the Apostle Paul.⁴ Paul said that the Spirit guards our souls until the Day of Judgment and that it is the Spirit that “seals us” until the Day of Redemption.⁵ The Spirit testifies that we are God’s children, co-heirs with Christ and that we will be glorified.⁶ This is how we know that we remain in Him and He in us.⁷ If we are truly the children of God (and John confirms this) we know for a fact that when He appears we will be like Him. This is a purifying hope that we can possess.⁸ Peter described this hope, this inheritance as “imperishable, uncorrupted and unfading, kept in heaven for us who are being protected by god’s power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last times.”⁹

So heeding the Spirit’s message and accepting forgiveness in the form of the atoning work of the Messiah precludes “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” and the “unforgivable sin.”

¹ Matthew 12:31; Mark 3:28-29

² 1 John 5:13

³ Job 19:25-27

⁴ 2 Timothy 1:12

⁵ Ephesians 4:30

⁶ Romans 8:16-17

⁷ 1 John 4:13-16

⁸ 1 John 3:1-3

⁹ 1 Peter 1:3-5