

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit, Part 2

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 12:22-32.

B. Jesus lived in complete submission to the will of the Father although He was equal to God. (Philippians 2)

C. He was also completely dependent and energized upon the power of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1, Luke 4:14)

II. The people began to wonder whether Jesus was the Messiah, and the Pharisees claimed that Jesus' power was Satanic.

A. They were blaspheming the Spirit because they were attributing His power to Satan.

B. Jesus responds by saying...

1. Their accusation is absurd because a house against itself cannot stand.

2. Their accusation is prejudiced because their people cast out demons too.

3. They are prejudiced because they are rebellious.

III. The blasphemy of the Spirit is unforgivable.

A. It is the unique sin of speaking evil against God in a derogatory manner.

B. All blasphemy is forgivable (conditioned upon turning to Christ, I Timothy 1:13).

C. God is a God of forgiveness. Blasphemy is unacceptable for the Christian but it is forgivable. (Psalm 85, 105, Jeremiah 32, Isaiah 43, 55, I John 1:9, Colossians 3:3, I Corinthians 5)

D. The blasphemy of the Spirit is the only sin that is unforgivable. (Leviticus 24:15-16, Revelation 15-17)

E. Forgiveness is based on belief in Christ--the one who concludes that Christ is Satanic keeps him from the means of forgiveness. (Isaiah 5)

F. The Levitical priesthood could not bring salvation--only Christ could. The Old Testament pictures had to be left in order to pursue Christ. (Hebrews 5:11, I Corinthians 3, Galatians 4, Hebrews 6, 7:11, 7:19, 2:3, 3:7-19, 4-6)

G. One must move on to faith in Christ because it is impossible for those who have tasted the Spirit to return once they have fallen away. These are those who have head knowledge but are not yet Christians. (Hebrews 4, Mark 6:20)

H. If one has been exposed to all the truth of the gospel and not been converted, he is unredeemable.

I. Now is the acceptable time of salvation.

Application questions:

1. How would you distinguish the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit with blasphemy in general? Explain.

2. How does the warning passage in Hebrews 4 relate to the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

3. What does Jesus' warning regarding the blasphemy of the Spirit suggest about the urgency of receiving Christ? Explain.
