

Sin Unto Death

- I. Deliberate, willful, continuous, unrepentant sin. The phrase “sin unto death” describes the final stage of divine discipline in which God removes from the earth, the person who is totally alienated from God.
- II. The SUD is not a particular sin; but it is, rather a mental attitude of total indifference to and rebellion against the will and purpose of God.
- III. The spiritual condition of the person who comes under the SUD is characterized by continual and maximum carnality.
- IV. This punishment represents God’s final step of chastisement to those who are in maximum alienation from God.
- V. Only God can discern the true nature of a person’s mind, attitude, or volition.
- VI. Only God knows whether a person is actually implacable and deserving of physical death.
- VII. The SUD is described as a principle in [1 John 5:16](#); [Psalm 118:17, 18](#); and [Ezek. 18:21-32](#).
- VIII. It is important for the Christian to understand the circumstances under which sins are not “unto death”.
 1. Confessed sin is not “unto death”. [1 John 1:9](#); [1 Cor. 11:31](#); [Psalm 32:5](#); [Psalm 38](#)
 2. Discontinued sin is not “unto death”. [Heb. 12:1](#); [Ezek. 18:21-23](#).
 3. Responding positively to divine discipline is not involved in the “sin unto death”. [Heb. 12:6](#); [Heb. 12:11-15](#)
- IX. Recognizable characteristics which lead to God’s applying the “sin unto death”.
 1. Persistent, unconfessed sin. Sin which continues unchecked with no repentance.
 2. The person who persistently ignores grace, warnings, and discipline. [Lev. 26](#)
 3. Sin which has a maximum adverse effect on other people (causing stumbling) may lead a person into severe discipline.
- X. Case histories of the SUD.
 1. “Lying to the Holy Spirit.” ([Acts 5:1-10](#), Ananias and Sapphira)
 2. Persistent carnality at the Lord’s Table. ([1 Cor. 11:30, 31](#))
 3. Disobedience to the Word of God. ([1 Chron. 10:13, 14](#); [1 Sam. 13:9-14](#)) King Saul did not kill Agag although directly ordered to do so by God; he insisted on personally offering sacrifices in the place of divinely appointed priests; and he consulted a witch, itself a capital offense.
 4. The case of self-righteousness and dependence on man which was perpetuated. (Case of Hezekiah, [Isa. 38](#))
 5. The case of apostasy on the part of a believer. ([Num. 31:8](#); [1 Tim. 1:19, 20](#), Balaam killed by sword)