

The Unpardonable Sin

Adapted from *The First Responder Healing Manual* by Chris & Rahnella Adsit¹

“But you don’t know what I’ve done...”

Some people look at their sins and come to the conclusion that they are unforgivable. These poor souls live under a load of shame and self-condemnation that will eventually crush them. They’re under that load *not* because God wants them there, but because their enemy does. This is “Industrial Strength False Guilt.” Don’t misunderstand – there is sin and therefore there is guilt, but the lie that it is *unforgivable* sin is what makes that guilt crushingly false.

For a person to have the opinion that God is not willing or able to forgive their particular sin is a bit audacious, don’t you think? How can we decide for God what He can or cannot do? In fact, we’re saying that Jesus’ death on the cross wasn’t enough to pay for our sin. He’s already spoken about this in Isaiah 1:18 (paraphrased): *“No matter how bad your sins are, I can make you pure. No matter how low you’ve gone, I can go there and get you.”* Do you really feel tough enough to say to the Almighty God of the universe, “Oh, no, you can’t!”? If so, then you’ve either got “Industrial Strength Courage” or “Industrial Strength Foolishness.” Probably the latter.

WORLD RECORD HOLDER. The Apostle Paul referred to himself as “chief among sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15). Here’s why: Before he became a Christian, he had broken every one of the Ten Commandments – even though he was one of the greatest (non-Christian) religious leaders of the day. He threatened, chased, kidnapped, imprisoned, tortured and killed Christians, just because they were Christians. If he’d had the opportunity, he would have considered it a great honor to do the same to Jesus Christ Himself. But then he met the resurrected Christ, and everything changed. That’s why he could write with confidence:

*Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, His blood poured out on the altar of the Cross,
we’re a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds.
And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free!*

– Ephesians 1:7,8 (MSG)

If God could forgive Paul, the world record holder of sinners, He can certainly forgive *you!* Thank Him for setting you “abundantly free!”

Can you think of any sin that would be unforgiveable? If so, write it down, and ask someone who knows God and the Bible really well if they would agree with your assessment.

¹ Adsit, Chris & Rahnella, *The First Responder Healing Manual* (Eugene, OR: Branches of Valor, Int’l, 2015). p. 85.