

THE SIN UNTO DEATH

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A BRIEF

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1. The “**sin unto death**” is the **last sin** which a believer, who remains in a state of extended carnality, commits just prior to God removing that believer by physical death. (1 John 5:16b; Heb. 10:26-30) This is part of dying discipline, the **most extreme discipline** for a believer.
2. God disciplines believers in three ways:
 - a. **Warning discipline** – *“For those whom the Lord loves he disciplines...”* (Heb. 12:4-11); those who sin and are judged as requiring discipline from the Lord. (1 Cor. 11:28, 31, 32)
 - b. **Intensive discipline** – David (Psa. 118:18), Incestuous believer (1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-9)
 - c. **Dying discipline** – Saul (1 Chron. 10:13, 14); Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
3. Examples of the sin unto death or its removal:
 - a. **King Saul** died the **sin unto death** because he consulted with the witch at Endor. (1 Samuel 28:16-19; 1 Chron. 10:13, 14)
 - b. **David** nearly died the **sin unto death** according to Psa. 118:17, 18.
 - c. **Many Israelites** died the **sun unto death** because of their collective disobedience to God as a nation. (Jer. 9:13-16; 42:18-22; 44:12-14, 2, 23, 27) The national sin of the nation Israel is described in the five cycles of discipline found in Levit. 26:14-39.
 - d. **Ananias and Sapphira** died the **sin unto death** because they lied to the Holy Spirit in the matter of their giving with respect to the sale of a piece of property they had owned. (Acts 5:1-11)
 - e. The **incestuous believer** did not die the **sin unto death** as expressed by Paul in 1 Cor. 5:1-5. (2 Cor. 2:6-8)
 - f. There were **some believers** in the early church who took the elements of communion in an unworthy manner. They ate and drank judgment to themselves and some even died the **sin unto death** (*“and a number sleep.”*) (1 Cor. 11:27, 29, 30)
 - g. There were **some Hebrew believers** who **continued to sin willfully** by refusing to recognize the total sufficiency of Christ’s death on the cross. By continuing to offer animal sacrifices they were trampling the Son of God and His sacrifice and they had insulted the Spirit of grace. These are in peril of dying the **sun unto death** (*“a terrifying expectation of judgment”* and *“a much severer punishment”*).