

Sins unto Death

1 Jn 5:16 says that there is a sin that is “unto death,” and a sin which is not “unto death.” The sin unto death is not necessarily a single act, but a continual habit, as **Heb 10:26** gives the outcome of not heeding verses 19-25. **Jms 4:17** speaks of a continual type of sin of which most in Sardis were guilty (**Rev 3:1-4**). Those who “fell asleep” in **1 Cor 11:30** and any whom the “thief” came upon in **Rev 3:3** (**1 Cor 16:22** *Maran atha!*) would be obvious to all, even those who had stained garments.

A sin unto death, or one which leads to death, is an ongoing, unconfessed sin as **Jms 4:17**, something you absolutely know is the right thing to do in a certain matter or circumstance or relationship, but you do not do it. This is rebellion against the truth, against God, against your own conscience, against the Body of Messiah and His love. It’s a sin against love, for love compels one to do the right thing, just as **Rev 2:4** finally caused the removal of the lampstand from its places, and Christianity was born out of the chaos of hatred.

1 Jn 4:20 — To hate is to not love, and to love is to do the right thing you know to do (**Jms 4:17**). A sin unto death might be one that results in a brother or a sister being “cut off” due to your neglect (**Jms 5:14,16,19,20**; **1 Cor 11:30**; **Jms 1:15,21**).

In Sardis most had a stained garment, and if the stain would not be removed it would be permanent. As a matter of fact, **2 Cor 5:10** will expose all who have stained their garment — done works in the flesh (**1 Pet 4:11**), and did not bring glory to God.

A sin unto death could also be a sin one commits that hurts himself or another person in such a way that can never be healed except in one’s own death, as **Mt 18:6**. That is the first death in **Rev 2:11** and **3:5**, being excluded from the Kingdom where only the worthy are able to enter in due to their works. It will become clear who are His good and worthy servants and who are the foolish virgins, or those who beat their brothers or fellow servants.