

“Sin unto death” versus “Sin NOT unto death.”

1 John 5:14-17

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Context of 1 John 5:14-17

- ▶ The value of confessing our sins, which is done in prayer. 1 John 1:9
- ▶ Our Advocate in prayer, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 John 2:1
- ▶ Why we receive what we ask in prayer. 1 John 3:22

2

Context of 1 John 5:14-17

In his final words on this subject, John does **two things**:

- ▶ Expands upon praying with confidence.
- ▶ Teaches about prayer with compassion, consistent with his teachings on brotherly love.
 - 1 John 2:9-10; 3:10-17; 4:20-21; 5:16

3

1 John 5:16, “If any man see his brother sinning a *sin not unto death*, he shall ask, and (God) will give him life for them that *sin not unto death*.”

There is a sin unto death: not concerning this do I say that he should make request.”

The prayer would be to **No avail!**

- ▶ **Prayer does not take the place of repentance!**
- ▶ Not distinguishing between intentional or unintentional sin so as to condemn one and excuse the other. Sin – any sin – must be repented of. cf. 1 John 1:5-7

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Praying With Confidence (14-15)

- ▶ **Requires asking according to God's will.**
1 John 5:14-15; cf. John 14:13-14; Matthew 26:39, 42
 - Note: Paul's “*thorn in the flesh*” – cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
- ▶ **Requires keeping God's commandments.**
1 John 2:3; 3:22
 - Note: 1 Peter 3:12, “*For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil.*” cf. John 9:31; Proverbs 28:9

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Praying With Confidence (14-15)

- ▶ **Requires abiding in Jesus, and His words abiding in us.** John 15:7 clarifies John 14:13-14
 - Confidence in prayer depends upon keeping the commandments, but keeping the commandments is the key to abiding in Jesus! – cf. 1 John 2:3ff

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Praying With Compassion (16–17)

For a brother.

- ▶ John has stressed “brotherly love.” 1 John 3:16–18
 - “Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” cf. John 15:13
 - “But whoso hath the world’s goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? (My) Little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth.” cf. 1 John 4:7–21
- ▶ Certainly, we should be willing and ready to pray for our brethren, especially when we see them sin.

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Praying With Compassion (16–17)

For a brother. “Sinning a sin NOT unto death.”

- Note: 1 John 5:17a, “all unrighteousness is sin,” therefore any sin is not to be taken lightly.
- ▶ God will give him life/ **forgiveness!** cf. 1 John 1:7–9
- ▶ Why pray for him? James 5:16, “Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.”

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Praying With Compassion (16–17)

1 John 5:16, “There is a sin unto death: not concerning this do I say that he should make request.”

- ▶ Matthew 12:31–32 – Rejection of the Holy Spirit’s message.
- ▶ Hebrews 6:4–6 – Rejection of God’s provisions.
- ▶ Hebrews 10:26 – Those who knowingly/ deliberately keep on sinning.

Makes it impossible for one to be saved unless he is willing to repent!

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Praying With Compassion

Are we fulfilling the requirements to be able to pray with confidence?

- ▶ Abiding in Jesus, and letting His words abide in us?
- ▶ Keeping His commandments and doing the things pleasing in His sight?
- ▶ Asking according to God’s will?

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Praying With Compassion

Are we praying with compassion?

- ▶ Praying not only for ourselves, but for our brethren in need?
- ▶ Praying for brethren overtaken by sin, that they may repent and live?
- ▶ Praying for a humble and contrite attitude on the part of the sinner, repentance and prayer, so that the application of the blood of Jesus Christ to the sinner’s soul will effectively prevent the deadly effect of sin. Acts 8:22

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