

14. The sin face-to-face with death is not a specific sin. It is the believer residing and functioning in the cosmic system. All his human good and sins add up to motivational evil toward self and functional evil toward others.
15. The sin face-to-face with death is maximum divine discipline, the most painful experience in life with no alleviation. It implies loss of reward and blessing and ashamedness at the judgment seat of Christ.

B. The Context for the Sin Face-to-Face with Death.

1. The context is the general doctrine of divine discipline. Divine discipline is the sum total of punitive measures by which God judges, corrects, and teaches the believer in time.

Hebrews 12:5 and so you yourselves have forgotten the principles of doctrine which teach you as a son. My son do not make light of discipline from the Lord, nor be fainting when you are punished by Him. For you see, ‘Whom the Lord loves He punishes and scourges with a whip every son whom He receives.’”
2. Divine discipline is confined to time according to:

Revelation 21:4 “... and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”
3. Divine discipline results from the believer using his own volition to create his own failures,

Psalms 7:14 Behold, he travails with wickedness, and he and he conceives mischief and bring forth falsehood.

v. 15 He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, and he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood.

v. 16 His mischief will return upon his own head, and his violence will descend upon his pate [**the crown of his head**].
4. Certain sins are worse as far as divine discipline is concerned, i.e., sins of the tongue that bring triple compound discipline: Mathew 7:1-2.

Matthew 7:1 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

v. 2 “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.”
5. If you have personal love toward God, you have impersonal love toward man. So do not gossip, judge or malign others:

Psalms 64:7 But God will shoot at them with an arrow; Suddenly they will be wounded.

Psalm 64:8 So they will make him stumble; Their own tongue is against them; All who see him shall shake their head.

James 4:11 Stop slandering [present active imperative (#38) of καταλαλέω (*katalaléō*)] fellow members of the Royal Family. The one slandering a fellow believer or judging his brother, slanders the Law [νόμος (*nómos*): the Royal Law] and judges the Law [νόμος (*nómos*): the Royal Law]; but if you judge the Law [νόμος (*nómos*): the Royal Law] you are not a doer of the Law [νόμος (*nómos*): the Royal Law] but a judge of it. (EXT)

6. For the believer in the cosmic system, there are three stages to the sin face-to-face with death.

a. The first stage of divine discipline is warning discipline,

Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone has heard My voice and he opens the door [rebound], I will enter face-to-face with him and dine with him [restoration to fellowship with God] and he with Me.”

b. The second stage of divine discipline is intensive discipline:

Psalm 32:1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

v. 2 How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

v. 3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long.

v. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.

v. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

Psalm 118:17 I will not die, but live, And tell of the works of the Lord.

v. 18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

c. The third stage of divine discipline is the sin face-to-face with death:

Revelation 3:16 “Therefore, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold [unbeliever] nor hot [believer executing the spiritual life], I am about to vomit you out of My mouth.”



Philippians 3:18 For many keep walking concerning whom I have communicated many times and now I keep on communicating even though weeping that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ,

v. 19 whose termination is ruin, whose god is their emotion, whose fame is by means of dishonor, who keep on thinking about earthly things.

7. There are two categories of suffering.
 - a. Suffering for discipline is a teaching aid unless you ignore it. This discipline is unbearable.
 - b. Suffering for blessing is bearable and accelerates your spiritual growth by helping you to apply doctrine to the situation.

C. Documentation for the Sin face-to-face with death.

1. In the Old Testament,

Psalms 118:17 I will not die, but live, And tell of the works of the Lord.

v. 18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

2. In the New Testament,

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is a sin *leading* to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

D. The sin face-to-face with death is related to the stages of reversionism.

1. The stages of reversionism
 - a. Reaction to Bible teaching or distraction from Bible teaching.
 - b. A frantic search for happiness.
 - c. Operation Boomerang.
 - d. Emotional revolt of the soul.
 - e. Locked in negative volition.
 - f. Blackout of the soul.
 - g. Scar tissue of the soul.
 - h. Reverse process reversionism.
2. The sin face-to-face means shame at the judgment seat of Christ with failure to receive your escrow blessings for eternity.
3. Maximum punitive action of dying the sin face-to-face with death does not imply that the believer will be miserable after death, because there is “no

more sorrow, no more tears, no more pain, no more pain” for all believers who are face-to-face with the Lord.

E. The sin face-to-face with death is related to the rejection of establishment truth.

Jeremiah 9:13 The Lord Said, “Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice nor walked according to it,

v. 14 but have walked after the stubbornness of their heart and after the Baals, as their fathers taught them,”

v. 15 therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, “behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink.

v. 16 I will scatter them among the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them until I have annihilated them.”

F. Administration of the sin face-to-face with death does not imply loss of salvation,

2 Timothy 2:11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

v. 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He will also deny us;

v. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

G. Case histories of believers who have faced the sin face-to-face with death.

1. Certain believers in Philippi:

Philippians 3:18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and how tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,

v. 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

2. Certain believers in the church at Laodicea are expectorated:

Revelation 3:16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

3. King Saul dies the sin unto death:



1 Chronicles 10:13 So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the Lord, because of the Word of the Lord which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of the medium, making inquiry of it,

1 Chronicles 10:14 and did not inquire of the Lord. Therefore He killed him and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse.

This is the sin face-to-face with occult reversionism resulting death.

4. Participating in the communion service in a state of perpetual carnality results in the sin face-to-face with death.

1 Corinthians 11:27 If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake.

v. 28 But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience' sake;

v. 29 I mean not your own conscience, but the other man's; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?

v. 30 If I practice with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

v. 31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

5. King Hezekiah had an evil foreign policy of going to Egypt for help:

Isaiah 30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the Lord, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin;

v. 2 Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

v. 3 Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.

NOTE: God put Hezekiah under the sentence of the sin which terminates with death in Isaiah 38. But Hezekiah rebounded and was given more time to live.

6. The case of the incestuous Corinthian illustrations of rebound:

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

v. 2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

v. 3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

v. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

v. 5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

v. 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of *dough*?

v. 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

v. 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

v. 9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

v. 10 I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

v. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

7. **NOTE:** These Corinthians recovered in 2 Corinthians 8–11.
8. The case of Ananías and Sappheirē in Acts 5:1-10. Their life in perpetual carnality was manifest by lying to God:

Acts 5:1 Now a man named Ananías, together with Sapphirā his wife, sold a piece of property.

v. 2 He kept back for himself part of the proceeds with his wife's full knowledge; he brought only part of it and placed it at the apostles' feet.

v. 3 But Peter said, "Ananías, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds from the sale of the land?"

v. 4 Before it was sold, did it not belong to you? And when it was sold, was the money not at your disposal? How have you thought up this deed in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God!”

v. 5 When Ananías heard these words he collapsed and died, and great fear gripped all who heard about it.

Acts 5:6 So the young men came, wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

v. 7 After an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, but she did not know what had happened.

v. 8 Peter said to her, “Tell me, were the two of you paid this amount for the land?” Sapphírā said, “Yes, that much.”

v. 9 Peter then told her, “Why have you agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!”

v. 10 At once she collapsed at his feet and died. So when the young men came in, they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

v. 11 Great fear gripped the whole church¹ and all who heard about these things. (NET)

9. The case of Hymenaeus and Alexander, 1 Timothy 1:18-20, who also lived in perpetual carnality.

1 Timothy 1:18 I put this charge before you, Timothy my child [see Paul’s imperative to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:3–7], in keeping with the prophecies once spoken about you, in order that with such encouragement you may fight the good fight.

v. 19 To do this you must hold firmly to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck in regard to the faith.

v. 20 Among these are Hymenaéus and Alexander, whom I handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme. (NET)

NOTE: The expression *handed over to Satan* refers to an act of discipline mentioned by Paul here and in 1 Corinthians 5:5, with a remedial goal, not a punitive one. The Greek word translated *taught* in this verse is used of “discipline, training or children” to lead them to correct behavior.²

¹ The Greek noun ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*) is translated “church” and this is its first use in the New Testament.

² 1 Timothy 1:20 in *NET Bible* (Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C., 2005), 2319sn11.

