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A THEOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE CONCEPT OF UNPARDONABLE
SIN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CONTEMPORARY AGE

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ABSTRACT

This research work focuses on the theological concept of unpardonable sin and its implications for the contemporary age. A general introduction to the research work is given in an effort to justify the need for the project. It provides information on the background to the problem and highlights the objectives and significance of the study. Christians occasionally believe they have committed the unpardonable sin. Their fears are sometimes the result of theological misunderstandings about the nature of this sin: at other times they may be the result of psychological disorders that are affecting their theological understanding of this issue. This essay identifies different views regarding the nature of this sin and examines the biblical passages which describe the unpardonable sin. The goals of this essay are to help Christians and unbelievers alike to become clearer about the identity of this sin and provide some suggested counseling guidelines for church leaders and pastors whose members believe they have committed it. The implications are given to various groups which include: Individual Christians, the Church as a community, Church Leaders and unbelievers. This spells out areas where the various groups are affected in order for them to benefit from this work. The researcher recommended that this topic should be treated as a comparative study between Christianity and African Traditional Religion. This will give insight to Christians on how to properly evangelize an unbeliever.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The unpardonable sin is not something committed by mistake; it only occurs after someone has hardened his heart to such a point of defiant rebellion that he consciously and volitionally calls the work of God the work of Satan. The fear sometimes found among Christians today, namely that the unpardonable sin involves unwittingly insulting Jesus or His works, can be easily laid to rest. Jesus clearly stated that those who speak against Him can be forgiven (Mt. 12:32).

There is no doubt that this research work has reminded us again about the unbelievable depths of God's forgiveness which has no limit. We should not live in

fear of falling 'too far' beyond His grace and forgiveness. In fact, a serious study of the unpardonable sin will lead the ardent inquirer to a deeper appreciation of God's forgiveness and love for us, His desire for us to come home.

The passages which speak of God's abundant love, grace, and mercy (John 6:37, Romans 10:9, 1 John 1:9) far outweigh the few passages which speak about His unforgiveness. One should be conscience of the fact that God will never turn away a genuine seeker. Godly sorrow always leads to repentance and restoration (2 Corinthians 7:10). We can move forward in confidence that God accepts all who come to Him in genuine repentance, offering forgiveness, life, and peace.

Appropriate application of this research work by the church will outlay the fears associated with the unpardonable sin and inculcate the sense of responsibility to God. This will also awaken Christians for evangelistic mission rather than condemning unbelievers.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

Systematic theologians and Preachers of the gospel are encouraged to carry out researches on this subject of unpardonable sin to have a holistic view of the concept of sin in order to provide a clear and precise answer to so many questions that contemporary Christians are asking.

Questionnaire and interview should be employed in the further study of the concept. This will help to have individual views and their concern for a better solution.

This concept can also be treated as a comparative study between Christianity and African Traditional Religion. This will give room for contextualization of the gospel in Africa culture and by so doing evangelizing unbelievers.