

Mark

A Study of the Gospel of Mark
Mark 3.20-35

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

23 So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?"

24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house.

28 I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. 29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin."

30 He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit."

31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." 33 "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. 34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Mark 3:20-21

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Mark 3:22

The Accusation

22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

Mark 3:23

The Principle Argument

23 So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan?”

Mark 3:24

Proof #1 that Christ is NOT
empowerd by Satan

24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.



Mark 3:25

Proof #2 that Christ is NOT
empowerd by Satan

**25 If a house is divided against
itself, that house cannot stand.**



Mark 3:26

Proof #3 that Christ is NOT
empowerd by Satan

**26 And if Satan opposes himself
and is divided, he cannot stand;
his end has come.**

Mark 3:27

Proof #3 Further Explained

27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house.



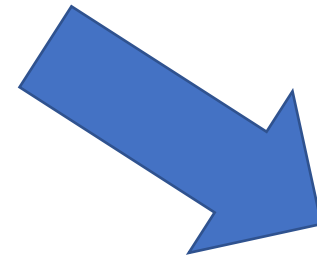
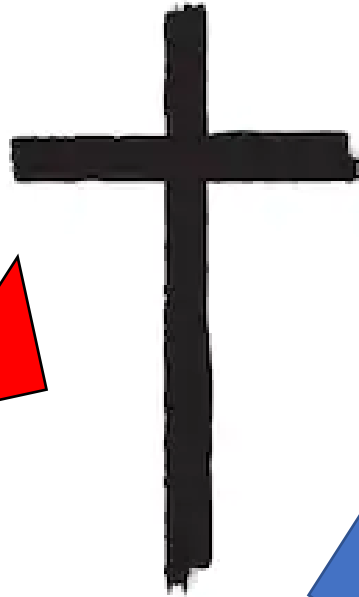
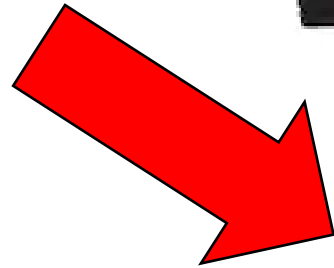
Mark 3:28-29

The Principle Truth

28 I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. 29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”

A Great Promise!

**Blasphemies
& Sins**



**Matt 12:32 Anyone
who speaks a word
against the Son of
Man will be forgiven**

**Mark 3:28 I tell you
the truth, all the
sins and
blasphemies of
men will be
forgiven them.**

Forgiven

A Great Warning!

Blasphemies & Sins

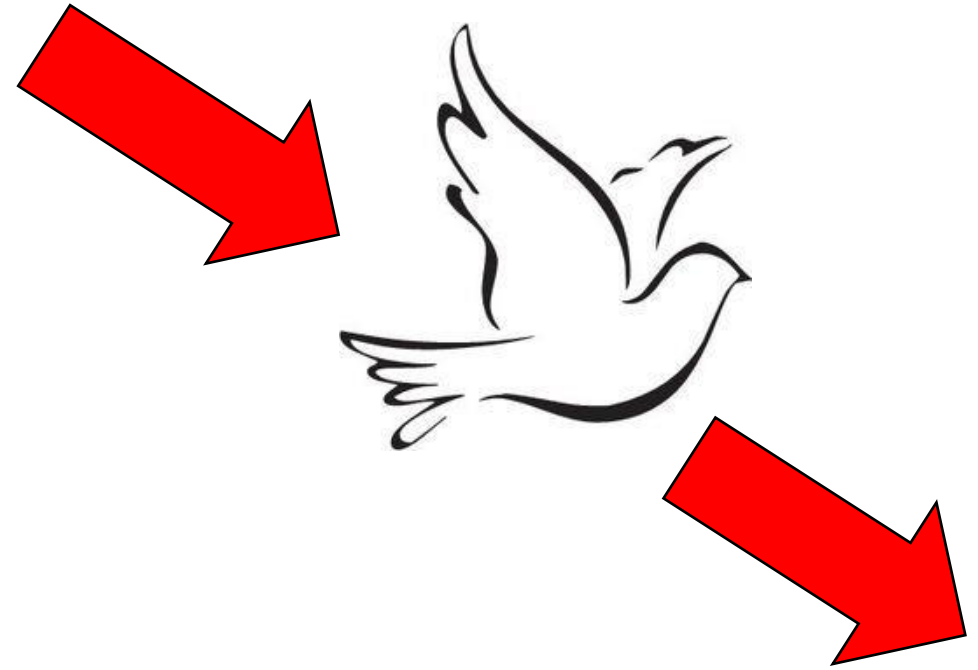
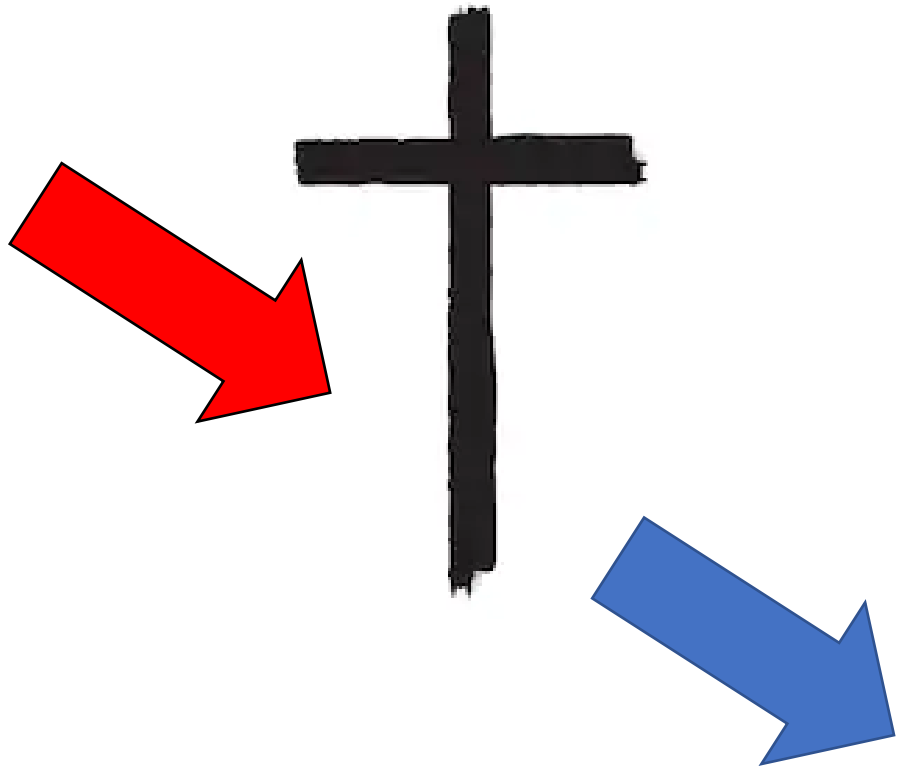
Matt 12:32 but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.



Mark 3:29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”

**Never
Forgiven**

Why the difference?



Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

What is “blasphemy”

And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven,
but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Luke 12:10

Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

What is “blasphemy”

It is a verbal sin against God. It has to do with “acknowledgement” in a more general sense.

Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

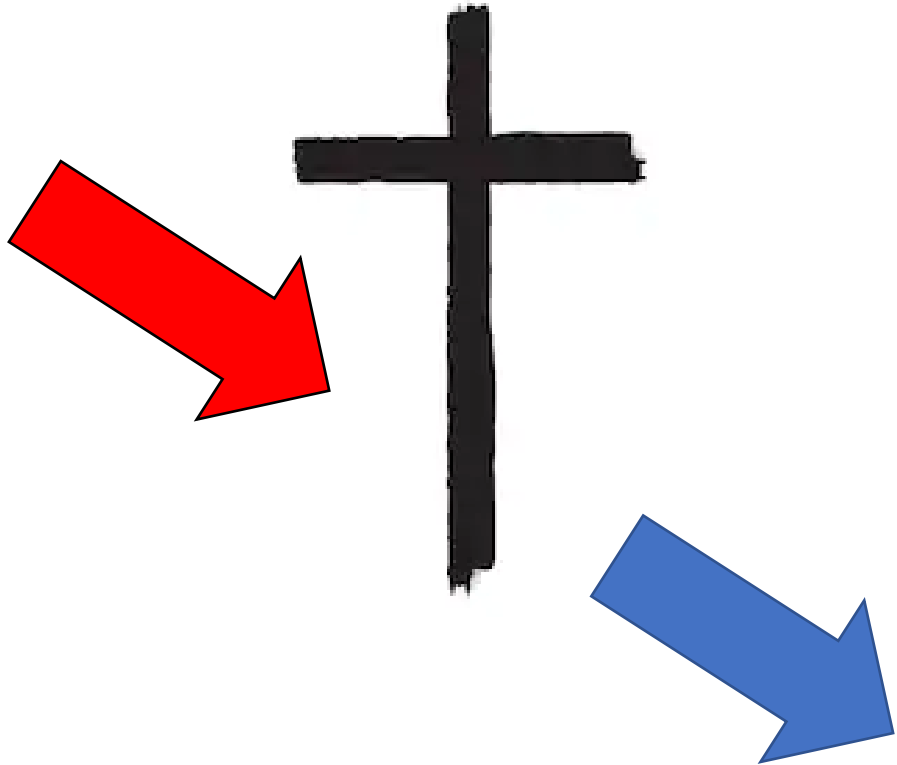
What is “blasphemy”

“It is desecration of the holy character of God. It can involve insulting Him, mocking Him, or dishonoring Him. In a sense, it is the opposite of praise.”

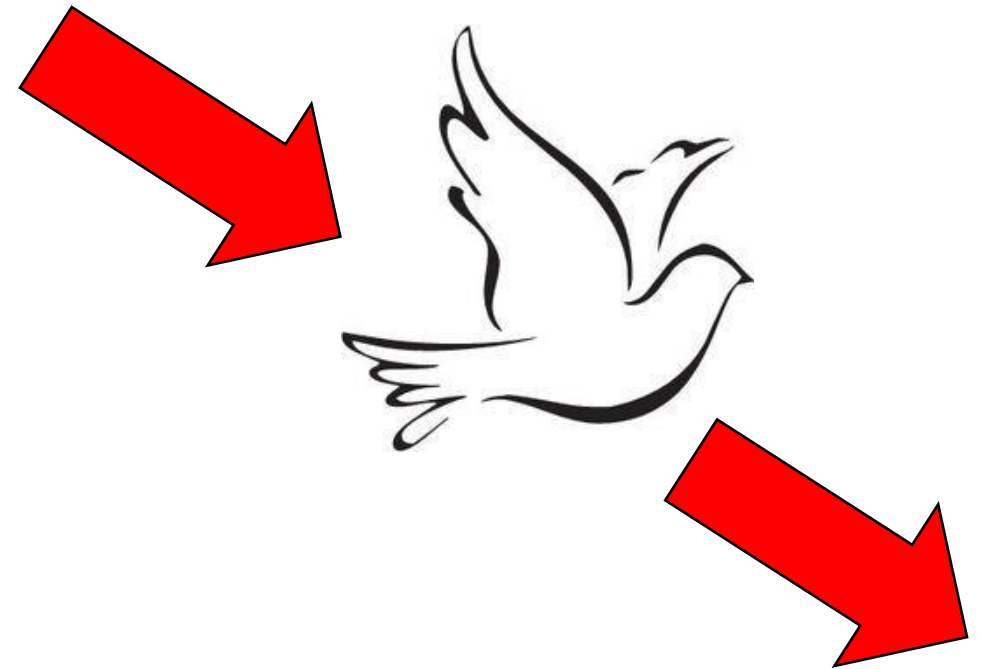
- R.C. Sproul

Why the difference?

**All blasphemies
forgiven Mk 3:28**



**Except Against
the Holy Spirit
Mk 3:29**



Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

#1 The Scribes have Bad Theology

Satan is not God, he is created. He is not able to exhibit divine power because he is not Divine, his power is limited and even his limited power is subject to the will of God.

Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

#1 The Scribes have Bad Theology

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

2 Thess 2:9–10.

Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

#2 It cannot be Murder or Adultery

**1. King David Committed
both and was forgiven by
God**

Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

#3 It cannot be an action against the church

3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Act 8:3

Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

#4 It cannot be an action against the Person of Christ

34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:34.

Considering the Blasphemy of the HS

#4b It cannot be an action against the Person of Christ

17 “Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God

Acts 3:17–19

So What IS the “blasphemy
of the Holy Spirit”?

Mark 3:30

The Reason for the Warning

**30 He said this because they were
saying, “He has an evil spirit.”**

**Can believers today commit
this unforgivable sin?**

**Have I committed the
unforgivable sin of
blaspheming the Holy Spirit?**

Suggestion #1

“This specific sin cannot be reproduced today, for it required Jesus’ presence on earth with His performing miracles through the Spirit’s power.”

- Louis Barbieri Jr.

Suggestion #2

Believers in Christ are not capable of committing an unforgivable sin because of the sealing work of the Holy Spirit.

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. Eph 1:13–14.

Suggestion #3

This account in Mark helps us to understand the theological importance that Christ is placing on being a part of the spiritual family of God. It is not physical descent that makes one right with God.

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“During Jesus’ earthly ministry the unbelieving Pharisees and all the others who blasphemed the Spirit cut themselves off from God’s mercy, not because it was not offered but because it was abundantly offered yet rebelliously and permanently rejected and ridiculed as satanic.”

- John MacArthur

Mark

...the way
...the way
...the way

...a boat, preparing their
...he called them, and they
...saw in the boat with
...followed him.