

The Many Forms Of Blasphemy

A drunk was weaving an unsteady course along the pavement and collided with the local vicar.

The drunk “*turned the air blue*” with a torrent of curses.

The vicar reprimanded the drunk by telling him that blaspheming in that way he was heading for hell fire.

In God’s eyes both of these men were blaspheming.

In this article, I wish to bring to your attention the many forms of blasphemy.

All forms of blasphemy are sin against God but **only** one is unforgiveable.

Youthorisms

Satan has twisted the Name of God so much that we may **not** realise that we are using God’s name in a blasphemous way.

For example, “*golly, gee, gosh, crikey, crumbs, lummy, gor blimey, goddam, my goodness, etc.*”

Mark 7:21-23 [NIV] “*For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’.*”

As humans we are **not** responsible for such words coming into our minds, as we live in a society influenced by Satan at this time.

But we **are** responsible for rejecting such thoughts and speech.

Colossians 3:5-10 [NIV] “*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and **filthy language** from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*”

How do we do this?

Colossians 3:2 [NIV] “*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*”

Replace such thoughts in our minds with thoughts about God’s mercy, love, compassion and faithfulness.

Philippians 4:8 [NIV] “*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.*”

Paul is telling the Christian church at Philippi the same thing.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] “*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.*”

This should be our way of thanking and worshipping God, a complete change of mind.

Irreverence to God

We have an example of this in the account of the King of Assyria as his army surrounded the walls of Jerusalem.

King Hezekiah had been encouraging the people of the besieged Jerusalem to trust in God to protect them.

Isaiah 36:7, 18-20 [NIV] *“And if you say to me, ‘**We are depending on the LORD our God**’, isn’t he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship before this altar?’” ... “**Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, ‘The LORD will deliver us.’ Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?**”*

The King of Assyria was trying to bring the Creator God down to the level of Pagan gods.

What did God call this action of the King of Assyria?

Isaiah 37:5-6 [NIV] *“When King Hezekiah’s officials came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, ‘Tell your master, ‘This is what the LORD says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard, **those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.**’”*

Through His servant Isaiah, God called this blasphemy.

Do humans or nations get away with such conduct towards the Creator God?

Isaiah 37:36 [NIV] *“Then the angel of the LORD went out and **put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp.** When the people got up the next morning, there were all the dead bodies!”*

The Assyrians didn’t.

How can we relate to this example?

Is the Creator God too small in our eyes?

Too weak to intervene in the lives of those He has called to be Christians at this time?

Unable to provide for His people in times of need?

Not strong enough to uphold the promises He has made in His Word, the Christian Bible?

If the way we live as Christians reflects such doubts then we are blaspheming God.

Note the King of Assyria did **not** curse God’s name, nor take His name in vain, yet because he showed irreverence towards the Creator God and challenged the power of God, he blasphemed.

Revelation 2:9 [King James] *“I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.”*

Christians are “*spiritual*” Jews. [**Romans 2:29**] Jesus Christ was telling the members of the Christian church at Smyrna that some of them were hypocrites because their lifestyle was **not** reflecting Jesus Christ but that of Satan.

This was referred to as blasphemy.

These “*Christians*” were claiming to be disciples of Jesus Christ but still living with the sins that they had before God called them to become Christians.

They were “*Christians*” only one day of the week when they attended religious Christian services.

What they were being taught by God’s ministers was having no effect on the way they lived the rest of the week.

This was blasphemy in God’s eyes.

Contradicting God’s Word

Acts 13:42-45 [King James] “*And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.*”

These Jews spoke out against what Paul was preaching, salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

This was blasphemy.

If we speak out openly against what God’s true ministers are preaching, we blaspheme against the Creator God.

If we do **not** agree with the doctrine that a minister of God is preaching we must go to him personally in private and discuss it with him.

If we talk to others, we blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:20 [NIV] “*Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.*”

What had these two people been doing?

2 Timothy 2:16-18 [NIV] “*Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are **Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth.** They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.*”

What they were saying was different to what Timothy and the other elders were preaching. This undermined the trust of some in believing what God’s true ministers were preaching in the future.

2 Timothy 4:14-15 [NIV] “***Alexander** the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because **he strongly opposed our message.***”

Alexander was another man who was outspoken. Note the context of this statement.

2 Timothy 4:3 [NIV] *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”*

It was the result of personal pride that these people, maybe in ignorance, are doing the work of Satan to deflect people away from the true Gospel message.

Causing others to blaspheme

2 Samuel 12:13-14 [King James] *“And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.”*

King David’s wrong example caused others to blaspheme the true Creator God.

1 Timothy 6:1 [King James] *“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, **that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.**”*

Employees or employers who know we are Christians may be made to blaspheme the work God is doing if we produce sloppy work, are half-hearted in what we do, arrive too late for work, etc.

Titus 2:4-6 [King James] *“That they may teach the **young women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men** likewise exhort to be sober minded.”*

Young people from Christian families can also cause others to blaspheme God by **not** submitting to God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

One form of blasphemy that is unforgiveable

Matthew 12:22 [NIV] *“**Then they brought** him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.”*

“Then they [the Pharisees?] brought” this could very well have been arranged by the Pharisees.

Matthew 12:14 [NIV] *“But the **Pharisees** went out and **plotted how they might kill Jesus.**”*

The Pharisees planned to destroy the work of Jesus Christ.

Mark 3:22 [NIV] *“And the teachers of the law who **came down from Jerusalem** said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! **By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.**”*

Tells us that they had travelled all the way from Jerusalem to report on the activities of Jesus Christ in order to discredit Him in the eyes of the crowd.

Matthew 12:25 [NIV] *“Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.”*

Jesus Christ knew the reason for this lying statement.

Secular background writings falsely implied that Jesus Christ had learned His *“healing sorcery”* while in Egypt as a young child.

Matthew 12:26 [NIV] *“If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can **his kingdom stand?**”*

Note Satan also has His kingdom of deceived humans.

Matthew 12:31 [NIV] *“And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but **the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.**”*

Why was this blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

John 10:25 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. **The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me,**”*

The miracles that Jesus the human Son of Man were performed in the Father’s “name.”

The Greek word translated “name” is “*ōnōma*” meaning authority or power.

This authority and power that was in Jesus Christ the Son of Man from His conception was the Holy Spirit.

These miracles of healing were done by the Holy Spirit in the human Son of Man, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 12:24 [NIV] *“But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by **Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.**”*

The Pharisees were attributing these miracles to Satan, so this was a direct blasphemy against God.

Why could such blasphemy not be forgiven?

The work of the Holy Spirit in us –

John 14:26 [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**”*

Bring to remembrance the words and promises of Jesus Christ.

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will **guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

To lead us into all truth.

John 16:7-8 [NIV] *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, **he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:**”*

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, that is the key that prompts repentance.

Shows us where true righteousness comes from.

Reminds us of the final judgement every human being will face.

Without this work of the Holy Spirit in us we have no hope of salvation from our death delivering sins.

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“because **those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**”*

All true Christians are constantly led by the Holy Spirit in their lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [Amplified Bible] *“Do no quench, suppress or subdue the Holy Spirit.”*

A timely warning from the apostle Paul, knowing how this can harm our spiritual growth.

This is exactly what the Pharisees were trying to do in others and had already done in their own lives.

Matthew 12:23 [NIV] *“All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”*

People were being reached by this work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ the human Son of Man.

The Pharisees had hardened their hearts and minds against the work of the Holy Spirit in them, and others.

Modern blaspheming “Pharisees”

Leaders who are trying to discredit the work of the Holy Spirit are to be found in the secular and the spiritual world.

Zechariah 4:6 [NIV] *“So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”*

This prophecy is in the context of the “end time” work of God, that began at the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is often ignored by spiritual leaders and is always discounted by most, if not all, secular leaders.

For example:-

Evolutionists

Those who believe and teach evolution blaspheme the Creator God by trying to strip Him of His power as Creator.

Teaching that it all happened without a Creator.

Genesis 1:1 [NIV] *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

God reveals the truth in His Word the Christian Bible.

Evolutionists were **not** there at the time when the universe was created out of nothing.

John 1:1-3 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

God created all things through Jesus Christ [the Word see **verse 14**], He was there as the Son of God, so He and only He knows how it all started.

Genesis 1:2 [NIV] *“He was with God in the beginning.”*

The Hebrew word translated “was” is “hâyâh” can be translated “became” which will harmonise with other creation statements. This is mentioned by most translators.

Psalms 104:30 [NIV] *“When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you **renew** the face of the earth.”*

Refers to the Holy Spirit renewing the surface of the earth, from its damaged state.

[Please download the articles on evolution on the website for a fuller explanation.]

Religious leaders who only preach on the love of God and forgiveness and ignore the judgement of Jesus Christ that we all as human beings will have to face, blaspheme God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

Unless this is preached alongside the love and mercy of God, people can begin to fall away from total faith in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 6:4-6 [NIV] *“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if **they fall away**, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.”*

There are degrees of falling away.

This falling away is mostly the result of neglect, a kind of unnoticed drifting away from the truth, allowing the “fire” of the Holy Spirit in us to become only a dull glow.

Hebrews 10:26-29 [NIV] *“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and **who has insulted the Spirit of grace?**”*

This is the attitude the Pharisees had. A deliberate rejection of the work and teaching of Jesus Christ.

God will never force us to repent.

God will only grant us repentance through the work of the Holy Spirit **if** we desire it.

Acts 11:15-18 [NIV] *“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?” When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, **God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.**”*

Peter came to understand that this attitude of repentance can be received through the Holy Spirit by any human being, **not** just Jews.

Acts 5:31-32 [NIV] *“God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and **so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.**”*

The Holy Spirit will **only** work in the minds and human spirit of those who submit to the Creator God’s way of life, the way of love.

All forms of blasphemy are dangerous, so we need to seek to eradicate from our lives all blasphemy in all its forms.