

1 John 5:13–21

Conclusion

(*The Lutheran Study Bible*, pages 2180, 2182)

Look

Verse 16 *“There is sin that leads to death.”* Death here is spiritual death, which is final and eternal. John refers to the sin against the Holy Spirit. See Matthew 12:31, 32; Mark 3:28, 29; Hebrews 6:4–6; 10:26, 27. This sin involves persistent, intentional, and malicious rejection of the Word of God against better knowledge and terrible blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and his work. We must be very cautious before ascribing this sin to someone. Those who fear that they may have committed this sin have not committed it. Their fear demonstrates that the Holy Spirit is working in their hearts. Christians pray for one another. But if it is clear that someone has committed this sin and driven the Holy Spirit out of his or her heart, we should not pray for that person.

Discuss

1. What is the purpose of this epistle? (verse 13)
2. How confident can we be when we ask God for something in prayer?
3. According to the first part of verse 16, there is one thing all Christians can do out of love for others. What is it?
4. Why is it true that those born of God do not sin?
5. Many deny that Jesus is true God. Prove this scriptural doctrine from the words of verse 20.

Apply

6. Often shut-ins feel that they can no longer serve. While they may not be able to actively serve as they once did, what can they still do?

The apostle John concludes this inspired epistle by stating its purpose: that you may believe in the Son of God and receive eternal life. He urges us to pray for others and to continue to serve the Lord.