



Questions:

1. What do you think about the idea of an unforgiveable sin? How does the concept of a sin that can't be forgiven fit into your thoughts about God's grace?
2. What stood out for you from Matthew 12:31-32, 1 John 1:8-10, and 1 John 2:1-6?
3. How do some individuals or groups come to feel that they live outside of God's grace, as if they have committed an unforgiveable sin? What damage does that cause?
4. Why is rejection of God's grace the unforgiveable sin? Does being unforgiveable mean that it can never be made right? If it can be made right, how does that happen?
5. What do you think it means when Bruce suggests that the Christian faith rests on "Forgiveness all the way down?"

EPISODE TITLE: "The Unforgivable Sin"

Forgiveness, Episode 4

Featured Guest: Bruce Van Blair

Bruce's interests keep him going in several different directions including the startup of a new house church (now streamed live from our Countryside Chapel), and most recently joining the Countryside community to begin our new ministry "Converging Paths," a partnership venture with the BTS Center in Bangor, Maine, exploring our vocational callings in our everyday workplaces, and our leadership in faith communities. Bruce has written a wide collection of sermons as well as several books, including *The Believer's Road*, and *In A Nutshell*.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Matthew 12:31-32, 1 John 1:8-2:6

³¹Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³²Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

² My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

³Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. ⁴Whoever says, 'I have come to know him', but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; ⁵but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: ⁶whoever says, 'I abide in him', ought to walk just as he walked.

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.