

THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN

NUMBER 117

MAY, 2017

CONCLUSION: The unforgivable sin (blasphemy of the Holy Spirit) is to possess or witness the supernatural (miraculous) powers of the Holy Spirit and then to deny in word or act the power of the Holy Spirit. (This definition is offered here, it was not copied from another source.)

DISCUSSION:

It does not make sense that simply saying words about the Holy Spirit would be unforgivable, but the same words about Jehovah or Jesus would be forgivable. It must be more significant than simply saying words.

It does not make sense that the unforgivable sin is the unrepentant sin. That means that the unforgivable sin would be forgiven if repented of, making it not unforgivable.

It would make sense that for a person to have received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the form of miraculous powers that he performed, and then turn his back on God would elevate the situation to terminal.

Today the Holy Spirit typically performs activities only thru natural means, so it is probably impossible for a person to have the powers to commit an unpardonable sin at this time.

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BE RECONCILED

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” (Matt. 5:23, 24)

Broken relationships hinder our relationship with God. If we have a problem or grievance with another person we should resolve that problem as soon as possible. But to highlight

the issue, the writer says, “If your brother has something against you.” When we are aware that another person feels offended or has a grievance against us, by something we have done or said, we have

an obligation to seek reconciliation. .

God provides the perfect example. He was totally horrified with our sin. He could have turned his back, we deserve nothing, have nothing to buy his favor. He paid for our reconciliation. He didn't pay a little, or even pay his half, he paid it all. “Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-” (Col. 1:21, 22)

Continued on page 3



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THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN, P. 2

Definitions from Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary:

blasphemy 1.a: the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God b: the act of claiming the attributes of deity 2: irreverence toward something considered sacred or inviolable.

forgive 1: to cease to feel resentment against (an offender) : pardon <~one's enemies> **2 a** to give up resentment of or claim to requital for <~and insult> **b :** to grant relief from payment <~a debt> **~vi:** to grant forgiveness

Pertinent verses:

Heb 6:4-6: For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted

of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucified to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. (NAS)

Matt. 12:31-32 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come."

Mark 3:29-30 "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin – because they were saying, 'He has an unclean spirit'."

Luke 12:10 "And everyone who will speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him."

Understandings from other sources:

John Clayton in DOES GOD EXIST? teaches "Allowing oneself to be so controlled by Satan that nothing man or God does will be accepted is a condition, and "blaspheme against the Holy Spirit de-

scribes that condition. Our **refusal to accept God's grace** is what condemns us--not a careless oath."

COMMENTS FROM THE PEOPLE'S NEW TESTAMENT, by B.W. Johnson

Johnson comments on **Matt 12:31:** "**The blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.** Compare Mark 8:28 and Luke 12:10. Much discussion has arisen concerning the nature of sin against the Holy Spirit, and nothing is plainer. Mark 8:30 explains it. It was ascribing Christ's works to demoniac influence. These works were wrought by the power of the Spirit."

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THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN, P. 3

Johnson comments on **Matthew 12:32** **“Whoever speaketh against the Son of man.** Personal injuries will be forgiven upon repentance. Christ prayed for his persecutors. Every sin can be forgiven but that against the Holy Spirit. **Speak against the Holy Spirit.** Perversely ascribe the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan. **Neither in this world nor that to come.** Judgment shall overtake him both here and hereafter. The Jews divided the two worlds, or, rather, *ages* of the world, by the coming of Christ. This would then mean that there is forgiveness to such a sin under neither dispensation. No passage in the Bible affirms more emphatically the doctrine of eter-

nal punishment. There is a sin that hath no forgiveness.”

Johnson comments on **Mark 3:30:** **“Because they said he had an unclean spirit.** This was a sin against the Holy spirit because Jesus did mighty works in the power of the Holy spirit, and they ascribed the power to an unclean spirit.”

Johnson comments on Luke 12:10: **“Blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit.** See notes on Matt. 12:31,32.

The above is about 25% of the article of the same title in The Array Notebook posted to the website thearray.org, It can be located directly by going to the following address:

<http://thearray.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/08-Diety.pdf>

If you have a different understand, we would be happy to print your understanding of the verses. You need to limit your explanation to about 600 words, but can link to other sources as desired.

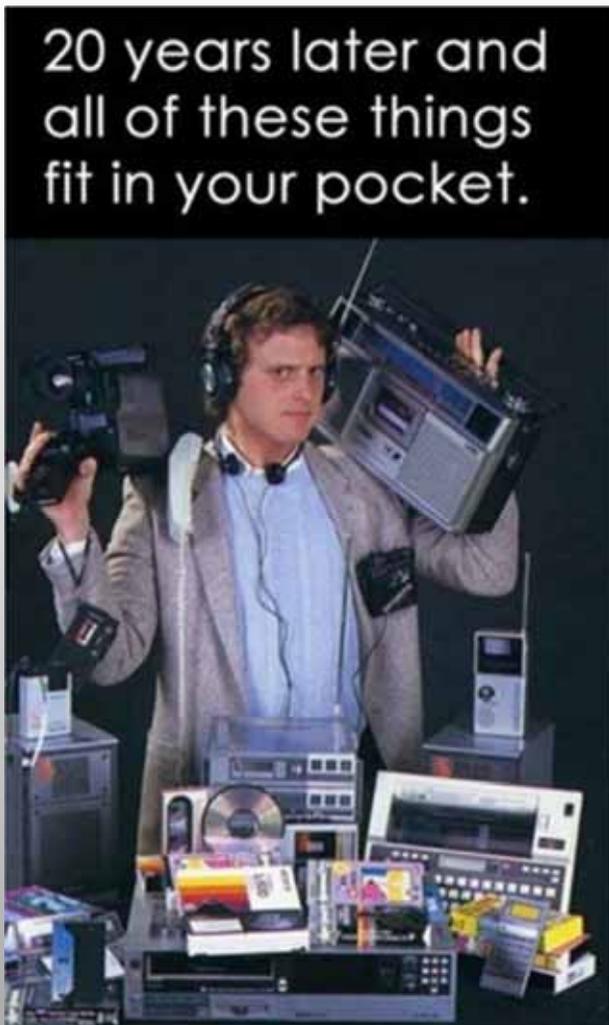
Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.

BE RECONCILED, CONT.

But it's not a one way street. Reconciliation takes two, God cannot reconcile us without our commitment to love and obey him. He will drag no one kicking and screaming into heaven without our love. “We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor. 5:20)

Luke uses the phrase, “try hard to be reconciled.” (Luke 12:58) God has given us the ministry of reconciliation among ourselves and to God.

Elizabeth Brown



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20 Best Value Small Colleges for a Computer Science Degree 2016-2017

By BVS Staff
November 2016

Welcome to our ranking of the 20 best small colleges for computer science majors on a budget.

Methodology

Each of these top schools has a minimum of three relevant programs for students seeking a bachelor's degree in computer studies or a related area (including but not limited to information technology, software/web development, and information systems). In addition, they each maintain an overall undergraduate graduation rate of at least 45%. Of course, to be a best value, these top-ranked schools also has to demonstrate a genuine commitment to affordable education – which means meeting our net price requirements. All of the programs on this ranking have estimated annual costs (as reported on College Navigator) of less than \$35,000 a year. But



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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—GOD PREVENTS EVOLUTION (APOPTOSIS)!!

Macro or creative evolution that is. We readily believe in micro or adaptive evolution.

The human body apparently has 37.2 trillion cells. Each cell has 3.2 billion base pairs of DNA, which is the coding language of living things. The DNA is divided into 20-25,000 genes, which are in 23 pairs of chromosomes, again in each cell. This will make sense in a moment.

We are going to suggest that you have difficulty getting your head around a number like 37.2 trillion. It looks like 37,200,000,000,000.

Every cell in the human body is replaced at least every 7 years, which means that there are 165,714 replaced every second. A number we can almost grasp. It takes about a day to divide, so there are 14.3 billion cells dividing at any time.

It is mind boggling enough that there are 14.3 billion cells dividing in your body at the moment and that they must reproduce with fidelity and be absolutely correct. That is not what this impossibility is about.

On watching a "Joy of Science" video sequence of 60 lectures, you see a wide variety of explanations of how evolution can happen. It is sold by The Great Courses and would be good for everyone to watch. There are some courtesy statements about maybe a God did something, but the general theme is that they simply haven't figure out how to exclude God yet. They do say some really interesting things though.

In Lecture #53, there is a discussion on cellular check points. It appears that when your 37.2 trillion cells divide with their 3.2 billion base pairs in the DNA coding, each cell has a quality control department.

After it duplicates 3.2 billion base pairs of DNA, it inspects it and if it is not correct it initiates a kill sequence and kills the cell.

After the correct DNA is put into your 23 pairs of Chromosomes, it stops and inspects the fidelity of the Chromosomes and if not correct it initiates the kill sequence and kills the cells.

The third check point checks to see if the chromosomes are properly attached to a spindle, and if not correct is initiates the kill sequence and kills the cell.

The name for this is **Apoptosis**. The Miriam-Webster dictionary defines it as "a genetically directed process of cell self-destruction that is marked by the fragmentation of nuclear DNA,

is activated either by the presence of a stimulus or removal of a suppressing agent or stimulus, is a normally physiological process eliminating DNA-damaged, superfluous, or unwanted cells, and when halted (as by genetic mutation) may result in un-

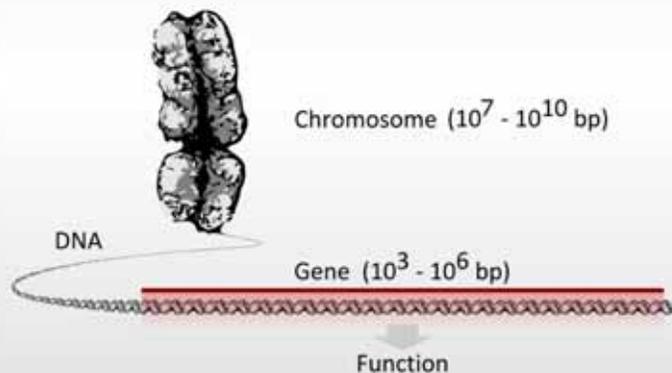
controlled cell growth and tumor formation — called also cell suicide, programmed cell death."

We would define it as impossible to be an accident of evolution. It would not be needed until the cells were defective. When they are defective you don't have a million years to evolve something. The defective cell multiplies and kills the host.

The theory of evolution is based upon numerous beneficial mistakes in the DNA. God prevents the mistakes with apoptosis.

Surely it took a highly intelligent designer to design this quality control department.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.



TERMS: DNA, CHROMOSOME, GENE

The following is simply a collection of definitions to help clarify the mind boggling amount of information we receive today.

DNA: is a molecule that carries the genetic instructions used in the growth, development, functioning and reproduction of all known living organisms and many viruses.

For instance, the DNA in the largest human chromosome, chromosome number 1, consists of approximately 220 million base pairs and would be 85 mm long if straightened.

In living organisms, DNA does not usually exist as a single molecule, but instead as a pair of molecules that are held tightly together. These two long strands entwine like vines, in the shape of a double helix.

DNA REPLICATION and topoisomerase. Next, one DNA polymerase produces the leading strand copy. Another DNA polymerase binds to the lagging strand. This enzyme makes discontinuous segments (called Okazaki fragments) before DNA ligase joins them together. (See graphic)

CHROMOSOME: A chromosome consists of a single, very long DNA helix on which thousands of genes are encoded. The region of the chromosome at which a particular gene is located is called its locus.

GENOME: The total complement of genes in an organism or cell is known as its genome, which may be stored on one or more chromosomes. A chromosome consists of a single, very long DNA double helix on which thousands of genes are encoded.

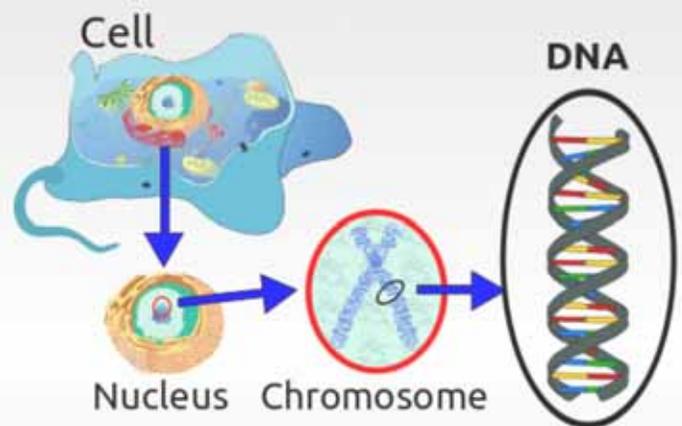
GENE: A gene is a locus (or region) of DNA which is made up of nucleotides and is the molecular unit of heredity. The structure of a gene consists of many elements of which the actual protein coding sequence is often only a small part. These include DNA regions that are not transcribed as well as untranslated regions of the RNA

RNA: ribonucleic acid, a nucleic acid present in all living cells. Its principal role is to act as a messenger carrying instructions from DNA for controlling the synthesis (production) of proteins and carbohydrates.

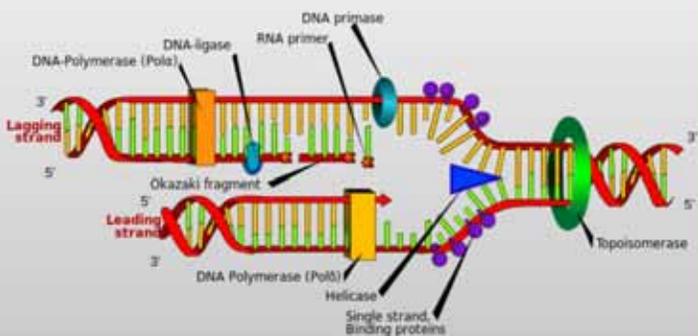
STEM CELLS: an undifferentiated cell of a multicellular organism that is capable of giving rise to infinitely more cells of the same type, and from which certain other kinds of cell arise by differentiation. When male sperm engages a female egg, the result is a stem cell. When this cell continually divides to make a person, it becomes more than 200 different kinds of cells (blood, bone, brain, etc.)

NUCLEOTIDE: a compound consisting of a nucleoside linked to a phosphate group. Nucleotides form the basic structural unit of nucleic acids such as DNA. It is the basic unit of DNA coding.

GENETIC CODE: The genetic code is the set of rules by which information encoded within genetic material (DNA or mRNA sequences) is translated into proteins by living cells.



The graphic above shows that your 37.2 billion cells have a nucleus containing 23 pairs of chromosomes, each having a portion of the 220 million DNA pairs, which are divided into thousands of genes.



This graphic shows the DNA to the right being divided at the Helicase, being matched with new DNA material at the center, and having duplicated DNA leaving at the left.

All you need to do to be an atheist is to believe this all happened by accident.

Vacationers

As you travel this summer, you can be of assistance in local congregations in helping them to understand how they are seen by potential visitors and prospects.

On the occgthingtank.org website, Project Papers tab is a paper titled: **MYSTERY GUEST PROGRAM**

This paper and the forms included will help you anonymously communicate with the congregation and improve their "curb appeal".

A project of the OC Church Growth Think Tank
www.occgthinktank.org



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Bible class at 9:00 am
Worship at 10:00 am.

Please plan to attend and tell your friends and neighbors. Most importantly, please pray for this mission effort.

www.nfbcoc.org

For more information, contact:
info@nfbcoc.org

PREACHING SPECIALISTS

Congregations sometimes need fill-in preachers and speakers with special subjects which are difficult for the local minister to become proficient in. Following are a list of speakers with topics which may be of interest to you. Each of the speakers are known to us and reliably present the Word.

If any of the topics are interesting to you, contact information is provided. Some speakers may require expenses and/or stipends.

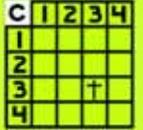
- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON CHURCH FAITHFULNESS**
- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON MARRIAGE**

Kent Allen, Oklahoma Christian University
405-315-3008

- **CROSSING THE LINE IN ADDICTION**
Philip Bailey, Memorial Church of Christ,
Houston, TX, 713-304-0011
Pbailey@gpbaileyconsulting.com

- **GOD IS SCIENTIFIC**
- **WHAT ATHEIST ARE GOING TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN, WITH ANSWERS**
- **WHAT YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE TO BE AN ATHEIST**

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.
Memorial church of Christ Houston, TX
713-419-8683
bbaugh@thearray.org



OCCG THINK TANK CHURCH LEADERS WORKSHOPS

Members of the OCCG Think Tank would be pleased to come to your area and present our Church Leaders Workshop with some of the information we have been studying and developing.

Real and practical suggestions will be made on how to better engage your members in accomplishing our part of the Great Commission in our time.

Workshops are formatted as:

Area Wide Workshops meeting at the location of a host congregation,
or Individual congregational workshops.

If you would like to host a workshop for your area or would like one scheduled for your congregation, go to the occgthinktank.org website, contact us tab, and send your information.

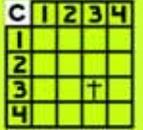
The **OCCG Think Tank** is studying how to promote methods which will return the churches of Christ to a growth mode while maintaining a firm scriptural basis. We solicit everyone's ideas on how to do this, but even more than this we need your assistance in making this a reality.

It is clear that having some ideas is different than translating the ideas to a beneficial form and communicating these ideas to the our congregations.

Whereas we would encourage all to dedicate your service time to your local congregation, if you have extra service time and energies, we need your help. There are many ways to help including:

- Working on Webpage design
- Microsoft Access programming
- Phone app for ready access to Bible teachings
- Develop Bible teachings into a standardized format
- Develop standardized information regarding denominations

If helping in these areas is interesting to you, contact bbaugh@thearray.org



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PREMISE: The difficulty of doing personal evangelism is proportionate to the distance you are from your congregation.

If you live far enough from your established congregation that it makes it difficult to do personal evangelism and would like to consider starting a new local autonomous scriptural congregation, let us know.

We have experienced volunteers available to assist you in starting your new congregation or to discuss the possibility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE: www.thecatalystinitiative.org

Led By:

Philip Bailey, 713-304-0011, pbailey@thecatalystinitiative.org
Benton F. Baugh, 713-419-8683, bbaugh@thecatalystinitiative.org

THE CATALYST INITIATIVE

Is seeking members who are an employee of or knows someone with a relationship with connections to retirement centers.

If you do or know someone who does, contact:

Philip Bailey, 713-304-0011,
pbailey@thecatalystinitiative.org

or

Benton F. Baugh, 713-419-8683,
bbaugh@thecatalystinitiative.org

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Clinic 979-578-9091, Cell 214-862-8964

jerry@gulfcoastchristiancounseling.com



Lance Decker

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www.lancedecker.com

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Pet Loss: Program specifically for the loss of a pet

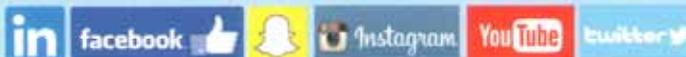
Also available for speaking to groups/
congregations about grief.



Mental Health SOLUTIONS
Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis Solutions
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Email: jeremy@mentalhealthresponse.com



THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

Each Wed. Northeast Houston Preacher's Meeting, Darien Loop CofC, 7014 Darien St., Houston, 11:00—1:00, Contact Cecil Herndon, aj10@ridemetro.com for more details

2nd Tues. Northwest Houston Preacher's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Rancho King Buffet, 5900 N. Frwy., Houston, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com for info.

9/2017 Greater Houston Area Church Leader's Workshop—ELDERS AS SHEPHERDS

8/2018 Greater Houston Area Campaign for Christ

The Christian Array E-Magazine

This e-magazine is sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote scriptural teachings, area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this e-magazine, send an e-mail to bbaugh@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate it if you would:

1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
3. give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to bbaugh@thearray.org.