The Sin Unto Death

I. Introduction & Definition—1st John 5:16-17
   A. A Sin Not Unto Death. ἁμαρτάνοντα ἁμαρτίαν μὴ πρὸς θάνατον (1st Jn. 5:16a,17).
   B. A Sin Unto Death. ἁμαρτία πρὸς θάνατον (1st Jn. 5:16b).
   C. The context is a confident prayer ministry based upon our life in Christ (1st Jn. 5:13-15).
      1. Intercessory prayer is prescribed for brothers sinning non-leading-to-death sin.
      2. We should never request that any brother is subject to the Sin Unto Death. Such a request is an ἐρωτάω request (1st Jn. 5:16b) rather than an αἰτέω request (1st Jn. 5:14,15,16a).
   D. All unrighteousness is sin, but there is sin that is non-leading-to-death sin (1st Jn. 5:17 cf. Rom. 6:23).
      1. The wages of sin is death.
      2. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
      3. What is a sin that doesn’t lead to death? A sin that is forgiven!
   E. The antithesis of death as a purpose-consequence is the glory of God purpose-consequence (Jn. 11:4).
      1. Unrepentant, unconfessed sin results in operational death and premature physical death.
      2. Confessed sin restores operational life and extends physical life with the purpose-consequence of God’s glory being achieved.

II. Illustrations
   A. Illustrations of the Sin Unto Death.
      1. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2; 1st Chr. 24:1-2). They’re lines were ended, and Eleazar was not commanded to provide for their lines to be preserved.
      2. Eli and his sons (1st Sam. 2:12-17,22-36; 3:1-21; 4:4-18).
      3. Saul and his sons (1st Sam. 15:10-35; 31:1-7; 1st Chr. 10:13-14).
      5. Hymenaeus and Alexander (1st Tim. 1:20).
   B. Illustrations of the Sin Unto Death judgment being stayed.
      1. David’s close call (2nd Sam. 12:13).
      3. The Corinthian man of incest (1st Cor. 5:5; 2nd Cor. 2:6-11).
   C. Illustrations of the Sin Unto Death judgment being stayed, then reinstated.
      1. Moses’ deferment (Ex. 4:24) and later judgment (Deut. 32:48-52).
      2. Balaam’s deferment (Num. 22:31) and later judgment (Num. 31:8).

III. Summary & Conclusion
   A. The OT and the NT provide multiple illustrations for the Sin Unto Death.
   B. Illustrations are provided as warnings (1st Cor. 10:1-11).
   C. The bottom-line cause of Sin Unto Death is idolatry (1st Jn. 5:21).
      2. Defiling the Lord’s Supper is the idolatrous practice of eating the table of demons (1st Cor. 10:20-22; 11:30).
      3. Apostasy is the idolatrous practice of living the teachings of demons (Rev. 2:20-24 cf. 1st Tim. 4:1).