

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** II Peter 1:2-5 “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, *giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue....*”

**Quote:** The notion that a true Christian can live a life of carnality makes about as much sense as saying that a “soul mate” can live a life of adultery. Ephesians 5:25-27

**P**eter reminds us that, in our pursuit of godliness, we must diligently supply several qualities by blending each one in harmony with the others like the various parts of an orchestra create a beautiful symphony. “In your faith supply virtue, and in your virtue knowledge....”<sup>1</sup> This requires daily, disciplined exercise that is life-long.

Peter begins with virtue, or the “*moral energy that performs deeds of excellence.*” Virtue necessitates the wisdom and determination to do what is right in God’s eyes. God-given wisdom is first pure!<sup>2</sup> The word pure is from the same root word for holy. “To be holy is to be morally blameless. The word signifies a ‘separation to God, and the conduct befitting those so separated’. In other words, to live a holy life is to live a life in conformity to the moral precepts of the Bible and in contrast to the sinful ways of the world.”<sup>4</sup>

What should motivate a Christian to pursue moral excellence? *The G-R-A-C-E of God, the eternal benefit of which is God’s Righteousness At Christ’s Expense!* “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”<sup>5</sup> Grace is the unmerited, unearned divine favor of God Who does for us that which we could not do for ourselves—be reconciled to Him.<sup>5</sup> Scripture makes it clear that the pathway of moral excellence only begins at salvation. *A life of virtue does not “just happen!”*

Ephesians 5:25-27 clearly states that “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*”

“For the *grace of God* that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, *denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*” Titus 2:11-14

“Therefore *gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’*” I Peter 1:13-15

Moral excellence is impossible without mental purity. It is from our mind that words and actions spring. How do we “renew our mind” so that we might not be conformed to the things of this world? **Recognize** that sins of the mind are personal sparkplugs that can “ignite” sinful actions.<sup>6</sup> **Rejoice** in the fact that victory over temptation is possible.<sup>7</sup> **Remember** that God holds us accountable for sinful thoughts.<sup>8</sup> **Replace** thoughts that offend God Who is holy with God-honoring thoughts.<sup>9</sup> **Repent** immediately and consistently of sinful thoughts that you dwell upon.<sup>10</sup> **Remove** or “**Reduce**” any stimulus that tempts you to sin with your mind.<sup>11</sup> *Moral excellence and holy living takes the serious intention of acknowledging Him in all of our ways!*<sup>12</sup>

1 Vincent 2 James 3:17 3 Genesis 6:5; 8:21; Romans 7:14-24; Galatians 5:17 4 J. Bridges 5 I Corin.2:14; Eph.1 & 2; Romans 3:21-24; 2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Corin.5:21 6 James 1:14-16 7 I Corin.10:13 8 Matt.5:27, 28 9 Philipians 4:8 10 I John 1:5-10 11 Psalm 101:3 12 Prov.3:5-6