

IMPACT

I Must **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: Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Quote: “It does not spoil your happiness to confess your sin. The unhappiness is in not making the confession.” Charles Spurgeon

Christians worship the Triune God Who is one essence in three Persons—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the trinity is a mystery that, among many other things, sets Christianity apart from all other religions.¹ God The Father planned salvation before the world began.² God the Son purchased salvation.³ God the Holy Spirit applies salvation to all who believe Who Jesus is and what He accomplished in His death and resurrection.⁴

Prior to His ascension into Heaven, Jesus told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit as a comforter to instruct them.⁵ Unfortunately, Christians can think, say and do things that hinder the Holy Spirit’s ministry of *teaching, leading* and *comforting* in their lives.⁵ The good that a Christian fails to do, as well as the evil that he commits, grieves the Holy Spirit.⁶ If an individual can continue to live a life of little prayer, personal study, and fellowship in a Bible-preaching church, he ought to question whether he is truly saved.⁷ In the same passage that Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit, he lists the works of the flesh. He states that *if a person has a pattern of sinful practices in his life, he will not inherit the kingdom of God!* Some characteristics of the ungodly that he mentions are sinful actions; impure thoughts; speech that is evil, hurtful or untrue; pride; self-centeredness; greed; a judgmental attitude; dishonesty; bitterness; anger and contention.⁸

All Christians commit sins that grieve the Holy Spirit. The question is, “How seriously do you deal with sins that you commit?” God promises that, “If we confess our sins, *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His

word is not in us.”⁹ Confession involves *recognizing* sin for what it is. We must never “sugar coat” sin or try to justify it. “The term confess means to say the same thing about sin that God does; to acknowledge His perspective about sin...and that (we) are a sinner in need of cleansing and forgiveness.”¹⁰ We must *repent* of sin. Failure to do so is rebellion. Once sin is confessed, we must then do all that we can through the enabling of the Holy Spirit to *return* from the practice of that sin.

Gratitude that God has secured our salvation, and given us His indwelling Holy Spirit should inspire us to guard against grieving Him in any way. In his second letter to the church in Corinth Paul wrote, “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to *repentance*. For you were made sorry *in a godly manner*, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For *godly sorrow produces repentance* leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the *sorrow of the world produces death.*” Worldly sorrow may result in remorse like Judas displayed; however, it does not produce restored fellowship with God Who is Holy True repentance produces results. Paul went on to write, “For observe this very thing, that *you sorrowed in a godly manner*: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”¹¹ “They *demonstrated* the integrity of their repentance by their purity.”¹⁰

We should rejoice that God “has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”¹² *Praise the Lord for His long-suffering and grace!*

1 <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity> and <https://carm.org/what-trinity> 2 Eph.1:3-6 3 Gal.4:4-6; Eph.1:7-12 4 Eph.2; Rom.10:9-10 5 John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7 6 James 4:17; 1 Thess.5:19; Eph.4:30; Matt.7:24-27; 23:23 7 1 Jn.2:19 8 Gal.5:19-21 9 1 Jn.1:9-10 10 J. MacArthur 11 11 Cor.7:9-11; Psalm 32 12 1 Jn.2:1-6