



“GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD”

ARTICLE 4 - SERIOUS SIN

“Although the power of God whereby He confirms and preserves true believers in grace is so great that it cannot be conquered by the flesh, yet the converted are not always so led and moved by God that they cannot in certain particular actions turn aside through their own fault from the guidance of grace and be seduced by and yield to the lusts of the flesh. They must therefore constantly watch and pray that they may not be led into temptation. When they do not watch and pray, they not only can be drawn away by the flesh, the world, and Satan into serious and atrocious sins, but with the righteous permission of God are sometimes actually drawn away. The lamentable fall of David (2 Samuel 11), Peter (Matthew 26), and other saints, described in Scripture, demonstrates this.”

9. The topic of “serious” sin is a delicate one, not only for those who fall into sin but also for those who judge such sin. What warning is given to those who judge? Romans 2:1-4

- How can one resist sin? Matt. 26:41; I Thes. 5:17; Heb. 12:4; I Cor. 10:13

ARTICLE 5 - THE EFFECTS OF SUCH SERIOUS SIN

“By such gross sins, however, they greatly offend God, incur the guilt of death, grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), suspend the exercise of faith, severely wound their consciences, and sometimes for a while lose the sense of God’s favor - until they return to the right way through sincere repentance and God’s fatherly face shines upon them again (Num.6:25).”

10. After we sin, we want to quickly be reminded of God’s forgiveness and mercy. However, God is a just God and “not a respecter of persons” (Ro. 2:11). What was the consequence of David’s gross sin? II Samuel 12:10-12

- What is a reason why the Lord is so angry with sin of a child of God? II Sam. 12:13-14

11. What was David’s response to God’s hand upon him? Ps. 32:3-5

- Compare David’s response to that of the unsaved. Ps. 32:6-11

12. Read Lamentations 3:1-8, 19-26 and Psalm 51:7-12. How does this describe one who is truly broken? Why would true repentance not allow you to return to your sin?

- Respond: How is the teaching of the “Works Gospel,” that teaches all *we* have to do is ask for forgiveness and God will forgive you, opposite of true repentance?

ARTICLE 6 - GOD WILL NOT PERMIT HIS ELECT TO BE LOST

“For God, who is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4), according to the unchangeable purpose of His election (Eph.1:11), does not completely withdraw His Holy Spirit from His own even in their deplorable fall. Neither does He permit them to sink so deep that they fall away from the grace of adoption and the state of justification, or commit the sin unto death or the sin against the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31-32) and, totally deserted by Him, plunge themselves into eternal ruin (Jer. 7:8-16).”

13. How are we to understand I John 5:16-18?

- DISCUSS: How would you “have an answer” to the critics of the Biblical teaching of the Perseverance of the Saints who insist that this doctrine gives a false sense of security of salvation?
- In God’s complete plan of salvation, why must the perseverance of the saints be included?



“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- Matt. 26:41

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“Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.”
-Lam. 3:19-23