

THREE MAJOR SINS OF A CHRISTIAN

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Introduction: No doubt Christians commit sins like anybody else, however being a Christian, there are THREE sins which bring more serious consequences to the Christian than the other sins. These sins are committed against the Holy Spirit. Looking at what the Holy Spirit does it is seen that:

The Holy Spirit draws the lost sinner to Jesus Christ. One cannot become saved whenever the notion strikes. One has to be drawn by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit then convicts the lost sinner of his/her sins. The Holy Spirit reveals to the lost sinner that he/she needs Jesus Christ, that he/she is lost and doomed to Hell without Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit then helps that lost one to understand the way of Salvation.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit before and during conversion or one becoming saved.

Immediately after becoming saved, that new Christian is sealed in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit coming to live within the new Christian. (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*)

The Christian is not only a temple for the Holy Spirit to live in, but is under obligation to the Holy Spirit as well as to Jesus Christ. The Christian is to glorify Jesus Christ in his/her body as well as in his/her soul.

The Holy Spirit indwells each Christian also for another purpose. He comforts in times of sorrow, to teach, to guide the Christian how to give testimony, how to bear fruit for Jesus Christ, to learn how to pray. All these things and countless more.

The sins of the Christian are not unpardonable, only the unsaved, lost person can commit the unpardonable sin. What then are the three major sins which Christians are guilty of committing?

I. LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. An example of lying to the Holy Spirit is found in *Acts 5:1-11* in the account of Ananias and his wife Sapphira.
 - Many Christians do about anything to "save face." A lot of people care more about respectability and "saving face" than they do about pleasing the Lord.
 - *Acts 5:3-4*
 - Sapphira came in (*Acts 5:8-9*)
2. Why did God kill these two people? They were Christians.
 - God killed them to make an example out of them.
 - The Church had just been started and God struck these two dead for lying to the Holy Spirit, lying to the Church, and to teach the others that it is a serious thing to lie to the Holy Spirit.
3. What was the great sin of these two?
 - Trying to put something over on God and His Church by pretending to be/do something they were not or had not really done.
 - If God struck everyone dead today that did the same thing, there would very few left.

4. What is this sin really? How do we commit it today?

- It is any kind of mockery, make-believe or hypocrisy in matters of Christianity/Church and in dealing with God.
- Lying to the Holy Spirit is living with one foot in the Church and the other in the world.
- It is running with God's people on Sundays and with Satan's people the rest of the week.
- It is wearing "sheep's" clothing on Sundays and out with the wolves the rest of the week.
- It is the sin of an unconsecrated heart.
- It is the sin of withholding one's best from God but willing and wanting to receive blessings from God.
- It is acting/pretending/posing as somebody one really is not.

God struck these two down because He wanted to show that it is a great sin to try to deceive God and His Church.

II. GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. ***Ephesians 4:30: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."***

- A way that Christians grieve the Holy Spirit is by their unchristian conversation, unbecoming, unholy communication, filthy talk, profanity and foul language.
- Another way to grieve the Holy Spirit is to Gossip. Tale-bearing, slanderous speaking against others. A Christian cannot be too careful at what comes out of his/her mouth. ***"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."***

2. Another way of grieving the Holy Spirit is in the attitude of the heart. ***"Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice."***

- Having something against someone, someone to whom you would like to see something bad happen to.
- Wanting revenge on someone, hoping that "they'll get theirs."
- God said, ***"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.."*** ***"Pray for them that persecute you and despitefully use you, and those that speak evil against you falsely for my sake.."***
- We are to pray for them, not to hold any bitterness in our heart toward them. If we do then this is grieving the Holy Spirit.

3. Attitude toward other Christians can grieve the Holy Spirit.

- ***"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.."***
- Christians are among the worst people in the world about forgiving an erring brother or sister. If the most vile, degraded person in one's community finds the Lord and is saved, every Christian in that community is thrilled and he/she is welcomed, happily into their fellowship. However, let one of the Christians of that same community fall into sin, let that Christian repent of that sin, but he/she is not welcomed back by many Christians of that community.
- ***"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness."***

4. The Holy Spirit is often grieved by the places Christians go and the things they watch on T.V.
 - The Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit and wherever the Christian goes, he/she takes the Holy Spirit. Would you deliberately take the Holy Spirit to come of the places you go? Would you ask Jesus to go with you to some of the places you go?
 - Would you ask Jesus to watch some of the television programs you watch? Would Jesus sit with you and watch what you watch on television?
 - As a Christian, do you really want to know what you should do or not do? Or does it seem alright to do certain things if you don't know for sure that the Holy Spirit is against you doing them? "Ignorance is bliss" we say, but "Ignorance is also sin."
 - If Jesus would not do it, then we as Christians are not to do it either.

5. The Holy Spirit is grieved by the attitude Christians can have toward their Church.
 - Whatever you think of your Church, you think of Jesus Christ. It is HIS Church.
 - Remember when Saul was struck down at the side of the road, blinded by Jesus and Jesus asked him why he was persecuting HIM.
 - When the Christian mistreats, neglects, brings reproach upon their Church, they are doing the same thing to Jesus Christ, thus grieving the Holy Spirit.

6. Another way the Holy Spirit is grieved by Christians is by the defiling of their bodies.
 - The body of the Christian is sacred, it is holy for the Holy Spirit lives there.
"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."
 - What does one have to do to defile the temple of the Holy Spirit?
 - Alcohol, drugs, immoral, adultery, any form of impurity.

7. What happens when the Holy Spirit is grieved at the Christian?
 - That Christian cannot bear fruit for Jesus.
 - The joy of being a Christian is gone.
 - The warm glowing love that made Jesus Christ so real is gone.
 - The peace that passes all understanding is gone, assurance of salvation is gone, faith is gone, prayer life is gone, EVERYTHING is gone, except salvation.

III. QUENCHING THE SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit moves the Christian to speak to a lost friend or family member about Jesus but the Christian doesn't. The Holy Spirit has been quenched.

2. The Holy Spirit tries to lead the Christian to a deeper spiritual walk with God but the Christian turns a deaf ear, ignores the urge, puts it off. The Holy Spirit has been quenched.

3. The Christian who constantly refuses to listen to the urgings of the Holy Spirit will one day need God and reach out for Him, but won't be able to find Him. Why? He/she has quenched the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION:

1. God has called many to preach for Him, but they refused.
2. God has called many to work for Him in their local Church, but they refused.
3. When the Holy Spirit has been lied to, grieved, and quenched, the guilty Christian is still saved but practically useless to the work of God.
4. A person who is not a Christian and has been saying "NO" to the tug of the Holy Spirit may one day not feel that "tug" anymore and will not have another opportunity to be saved.
5. Christian, remember that the very presence of God dwells within you, therefore act accordingly.