

**The Bible teaches the concept of personal responsibility:** *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him, Ezekiel 18.20*

[What does the Bible say about a Christian's responsibility? | GotQuestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org/What-does-the-Bible-say-about-a-Christian-s-responsibility/)

Without question the greatest reason that we live for God is our unwavering belief in the resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is through His resurrection from the grave that we have hope and the promise of life eternal with him. In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, the apostle Paul explains that, because of these promises of a future resurrection and of living eternally in the kingdom, **believers have eternal responsibilities for our lives here on earth.**

**Part of growing up is taking responsibility for oneself.** We start as infants with no personal responsibility whatsoever—everything that we need done is done for us. As we progress through the various stages of childhood, we take on more and more responsibility. We learn to tie our own shoes, clean our own rooms, and turn in our own homework.

**We learn that responsibility has its rewards—and irresponsibility has other, less-than-desirable effects.** In many ways, the difference between a child and a man is his willingness to take personal responsibility for his actions.

*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1 Cor 13.11*

**Personal responsibility is closely related to the law of sowing and reaping.**

*Be not deceived; **God is not mocked**: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Galatians 6.7-8*

**Thumb your nose** - *A sign of derision made by putting your thumb on your nose and wiggling your fingers. Original motion created by placing ones thumb upon the side of their nose and pushing out as if giving thumbs up. Guaranteed to offend. A synonymous expression, which is more common in British English, is to cock a snook. This expression originated in the first half of the 1900s. This rude gesture was common for children to do in the past. It was a way of mocking someone. Similar antics included sticking out one's tongue (with or without blowing a raspberry) or chanting the mocking song na na na naaaa naaa. You cannot snub God and get away with it! You may think you are escaping His just judgment, but this is why it is called deception and self-deception is the worst kind of all!*

**Robert Louis Stevenson said it this way...**

*"Sooner or later in life,  
we all sit down  
to a banquet of consequences."*

*Daniel Webster said "The most awful thing he knew was the recognition of his accountability to God."*

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote....*

*THOUGH the mills of God grind slowly,  
Yet they grind exceeding small;  
Though with patience He stands waiting,  
With exactness grinds He all.*

### 1. Stand Firm in the Faith

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Cor 15:58*

The Greek for "standing firm" is *hedraios*, which **literally refers to "being seated, being settled and firmly situated."** The Greek for "letting nothing move you" is *ametakinetos*, and it carries the same basic idea but with more intensity. It means **"being totally immobile and motionless,"** indicating that we should not even budge an inch from His will. And with our being totally within the will of God, we are to be "always giving ourselves to the work of the Lord,"

**A T Robertson** writes that in [1Co 15:58](#) Paul declares the "Practical result of this great assurance ( A sure Resurrection and Victory over death). They must get rid of the unsettled and unfruitful state of mind caused by habitual skepticism, and must learn to be firmly seated, so as to be able to resist the false teaching and other hostile forces that would carry them away Col 1:23

[Study Guide for 1 Corinthians 15 by David Guzik \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

**1 Corinthians 15:58 Final application: how our destiny of resurrection means we should stand fast for the Lord right now.**

**Knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord:** *Even if your labor is vain to everyone else, and everyone else discounts or doesn't appreciate what you do for the Lord, **your labor is not in vain in the Lord.** It doesn't matter if you get the praise or the encouragement; sometimes you will and sometimes you won't. But resurrection means **that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.***

i. "You must not only work, but you must labour - put forth all your strength; and you must work and labour in the Lord - under his direction, and by his influence; for without him you can do nothing." (Clarke)

ii. This should make us **steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord!** We don't need to waver, we don't need to change direction, we don't need to fall, and we don't need to quit. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown

toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister ([Hebrews 6:10](#)).

**The Lord will show His remembrance of our work and labor of love at the resurrection.**

*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Eph 4.14*

[Galatians 6 Commentary | Precept Austin](#)

**A. B. Simpson** said,

*“I believe the toils and prayers of 20 years ago are not lost. We may not see the results of our labor and sacrifice immediately, but in due time they will issue into beauty and glory.*

*“The love you give, the forgiveness you show, and the patience and forbearance that grace your life will surely produce much fruit. The friend you long to bring to Christ may refuse to be reconciled to Him. His heart may seem to be very hard, and your prayers and efforts may appear to be lost; but they are not! They will come back to you a hundredfold—perhaps long after you have forgotten them.*

*“Give God time! The results are working themselves out slowly but surely. There must be seedtime and summer before the autumn reaping.”*

[What Are My Christian Duties? | markshuttministries](#)

**First and foremost** we are to love God with all of our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength; this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30). Next we are to love one another as Christ loves us (John 13:34). This means that our love for each other must be constant, sacrificial and unconditional (1 John 3:16.17).

**Also included among our duties is this:** We are to Stand Firm “IN” God and “FOR” God, immovable, no matter how the world may come against us and persecute us. We are to fan the wind of God’s Love into the lives of others by becoming active duty soldiers in the army of God. How can we do this? Actually, there are many ways. We can pick up the telephone and call an unsaved friend or loved one and let them know how much God loves them. When we are in the back yard talking with our neighbor over the fence we can let the discussion lead us to finding out whether or not he or she is a Christian. If they are not then share Christ with them and show them how they can invite Jesus into their heart. Your health club, your neighborhood, your dentist, your doctor, your bowling team, your golfing buddies, these and many others are all fields of opportunity for us to advance the Kingdom of God. With every opportunity given to us we must “cease not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”(Acts 5:42).

**Additional duties include** glorifying and honoring God with every word that crosses our lips. We are to glorify Him with our actions. We are to put Him First in everything - always! We are to be ever thankful for His constant blessings. We are to Obey Him to the letter. We are to Trust Him in all things and Him Alone and we are to always be Humble.

Being a Christian comes with great responsibilities. Through daily prayer and simple conversation with Him we are assured that Christ will lead us and strengthen us in fulfilling those responsibilities and duties, and we must do it all with a joyful heart and an attitude that mirrors that of Christ Himself.

## 2. Give ourselves in Service to Christ

**The tissues of the life to be**

**We weave with colors all our own;**

**And in the field of Destiny**

**We reap as we have sown.**

**-W H Griffith-Thomas**

Because God has so abundantly provided for us who deserve nothing from Him, we should determine to give of ourselves abundantly in service to Him, to whom we owe everything.

The Bible teaches us that our responsibility as believers is **to work uncompromisingly as the Lord has gifted us and leads us in this life**. We must fully understand that until the Lord returns there are souls to reach and ministries of every sort to be performed. We are responsible for our money, time, energy, talents, gifts, bodies, minds, and spirits, and we should invest in nothing that does not in some way contribute to the work of the Lord.

[Blessings and Responsibilities of Believers - Witnessing God's Testimonies - Serious Things \(serious-things.com\)](http://serious-things.com)

### **The Blessings Christians Enjoy**

- A. Chosen by God; election – Ephesians 1:4
- B. Adoption into God's family – Ephesians 1:5, 2:19
- C. Acceptance before God – Ephesians 1:6
- D. Forgiveness of sin – Ephesians 1:7
- E. Insight into God's will – Ephesians 1:9
- F. An eternal inheritance – Ephesians 1:11
- G. The seal of the Spirit – Ephesians 1:13, 2:18
- H. God's mercy and love – Ephesians 2:4, 3:17-19
- I. Wisdom and knowledge – Ephesians 1:17
- J. Divine power – Ephesians 1:19,20, 3:16,20
- K. Spiritual life – Ephesians 2:1,5
- L. The promise of eternal kindness – Ephesians 2:7
- M. The knowledge that God's plan of us is good – Ephesians 2:10
- N. Unity and peace with all believers – Ephesians 2:11-18, 3:6
- O. Heavenly citizenship – Ephesians 2:19
- P. Access to God through Christ – Ephesians 3:12

### **The Responsibilities Christians Have**

- A. To keep the unity of the Spirit – Ephesians 4:3-6

- B. To use our abilities for the church's benefit – Ephesians 4:7-13
- C. To keep growing and maturing – Ephesians 4:14,15
- D. To put away old, sinful ways – Ephesians 4:17-23, 5:2-14
- E. To speak honestly and purely – Ephesians 4:25, 29
- F. To do what the Spirit leads us to do – Ephesians 4:30**
- G. To imitate God – Ephesians 5:1
- H. To walk in love – Ephesians 5:2
- I. To discern what is acceptable to the Lord – Ephesians 5:10
- J. To make the most of our time – Ephesians 5:16
- K. To be filled with the Spirit – Ephesians 5:18
- L. To submit to one another – Ephesians 5:21
- M. To have marriages that honor God – Ephesians 5:22-33
- N. To honor God in our families – Ephesians 6:1-4
- O. To demonstrate integrity in the workplace – Ephesians 6:5-9
- P. To stand strong against the forces of evil – Ephesians 6:10-18

## [Lesson 36: Why Not Sin? \(Ephesians 4:30\) | Bible.org](#)

*Then Spurgeon writes, "My own experience is a daily struggle with the evil within. I wish I could find in myself something friendly to grace, but, hitherto, I have searched my nature through, and have found everything in rebellion against God." He then mentions his struggles with sloth, anger, pride, and distrust in God (C. H. Spurgeon Autobiography [Banner of Truth], 1:229).*

It would be wonderful if we could reach a place in the Christian life where sin was no longer so tempting! It would be nice if the longer you were a Christian, the more immunity to sin you built up, so that it just glanced off you. But the fact is, a man after God's heart such as David, after years of walking with God and writing many inspired Psalms, succumbed to the temptation of adultery, deception, and murder. The wisest man on the earth, Solomon, who had several personal encounters with God, fell into the sin of idolatry.

The Bible gives us many good reasons not to sin. For one thing, ***sin hurts you***. God designed His commandments for our blessing and protection. There are built-in consequences when we violate His holy standards. It's like the traffic laws. You can drive fast, run red lights, and drive on the wrong side of the road in order to get where you're going faster. For a while, it may work. You may think, "This is great! I don't have to obey those restrictive laws!" But, sooner or later you're going to get hit by a semi-truck and it won't be fun any more!

### ***Sin hurts others***

#### ***God will judge sinners that do not repent***

#### ***We should not sin because our sin grieves the Holy Spirit, who has sealed us for the day of redemption***

##### **1. Your sin grieves the Holy Spirit because He loves you.**

Martyn Lloyd-Jones (*Darkness and Light* [Baker], pp. 265-266) points out that this verse distinguishes Christian ethics from every other ethical system. Other religions have ethical standards, but none of

them command their followers not to sin because their sin grieves God. And, Paul is not appealing to his readers to adhere to a certain moral standard simply because it is the right thing to do. He is not even appealing to them to obey these moral commands because it will benefit them, although it will, as we have seen.

## **2. Your sin grieves the Holy Spirit because He loves others.**

Because (as we saw) our sin always hurts others and because the Spirit loves others, our sin grieves Him. In the context, Paul has especially been referring to sins that disrupt the unity of the body. Verse 30 (in the Greek text) begins with, “and,” connecting it to verse 29. In that verse, rotten speech implicitly tears down others, whereas gracious speech builds up others. The same may be said of lying (4:25), of sinful anger (4:26, 31), and of stealing (4:28). All of these sins hurt others. Since God loves these other people, your sin grieves Him.

## **3. Your sin grieves the Holy Spirit because He is holy.**

The Greek construction of verse 30 is literally, “And do not grieve the Spirit, the Holy One of God....” It puts an emphasis on His holiness. God’s holiness means that He is absolutely apart from and opposed to all sin and evil. [First John 1:5](#) says, “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” [First Timothy 6:16](#) says that God “dwells in unapproachable light.” In Isaiah’s vision of God ([Isa. 6:3](#)), the holy angels cry out, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.”

## **4. If you grieve the Holy Spirit by sinning, you will suffer certain consequences.**

Again, it is vital to remember that these consequences always stem from the Spirit’s love, not because He is mean or He wants to take away your fun. Quite the contrary, true, lasting joy is only found in true, lasting holiness. Sin brings temporary pleasure ([Heb. 11:25](#)), but long-term pain. Holiness is often more difficult in the short-term, but it brings lasting peace, joy, and pleasure ([Heb. 12:11](#); [Ps. 16:11](#)). First, we will consider some consequences that you *will* suffer if you grieve the Holy Spirit. Then we will look at some consequences that you *will not* suffer, contrary to what some teach. (For the following points, I am relying on Charles Spurgeon, “Grieve Not the Holy Spirit,” *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit* [Pilgrim Publications], 13:129-130; and on Lloyd-Jones, pp. 274-275.)

### **SOME CONSEQUENCES THAT YOU WILL SUFFER IF YOU GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

- (1). YOU WILL SUFFER THE SPIRIT’S LOVING DISCIPLINE.
- (2). YOU WILL LOSE THE SENSE OF THE SPIRIT’S PRESENCE.
- (3). YOU WILL LOSE THE SENSE OF GOD’S LOVE.
- (4). YOU WILL LOSE THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION.
- (5). YOU WILL LOSE THE ASSURANCE OF YOUR SALVATION.
- (6). YOU WILL LOSE GOD’S COMFORT IN YOUR TRIALS.
- (7). YOU WILL LOSE THE ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER.
- (8). YOU WILL LOSE THE ABILITY TO BEAR FRUIT AND GAIN REWARDS IN YOUR SERVICE FOR CHRIST.