

Bearing in mind God knows what we will do before we do it, can we break the heart of God by our actions or inactions?

Concepts such as exhaustive foreknowledge and general immutability come from Greek paganism not the Bible. In Genesis 22:12 God tested Abraham saying, “For *now I know* that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me (Ge 22:12, emphasis mine).”

God is grieved when men sin (Ps 95:10, Is 53:3, 4, 10, 63:10, Eph 4:30). He died for mankind (Ro 5:8) and it is not his will that any should perish (2 Pe 3:9); yet, few find life (Mt 7:14).

There are sins of commission (proactively doing wrong) and sins of omission (refusing to do right). Adrian Rogers said, “An idle mind is the devil's workshop. And that's the reason the sins of omission are greater than the sins of commission. If you're doing what you ought to be doing, then you can't be doing what you ought not to be doing.”

The consequences of sin for the unregenerate are: blindness (Jn 9:41; 2 Co 4:3, 4), servitude (Jn 8:34), irreconcilability (2 Ti 3:1–7) and second death (Ro 6:23).¹

Christians are overcomers (1 Jn 2:14, Re 12:11) having passed from death to life (Jn 5:24, 1 Jn 3:14). They abide in God (1 Jn 2:28). The believer does not live a life of habitual sin. He cannot because he has been born of God (1 Jn 3:9).

Jesus said we will know men by their fruits (Mt 7:20) and the apostle John wrote: “Ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him (1 Jn 2:29).”

Whereas fruit of the flesh (Ga 5:19-21) is: immorality, idolatry, hatred, discord, selfish ambition, envy, drunkenness, etc.; fruit of the spirit (5:22–26) is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.²

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 576). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Ibid, Ga 5:19–26.