

Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4: 30-32

9/22/02

Intro

- New Growth Groups starting this week.

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In the verses we have been studying Paul has been teaching us how to walk in this world as a victorious Christian and that we should walk this way as a response to the outpouring of blessings on us.

He has been telling us the importance of putting off the old ways of the world and putting on Christ. Last week we heard of four different things that God wants us to put off and to put on.

The last one was important because it puts its finger right where we live – in human relationships. He told us that we should not allow any corrupt word to come from our mouths, but only such words that edify, build up, bless.

Here in these last few verses of chapter 4 Paul focuses directly on an area where we need the most help, because it is here we find the most hurt. He is talking about unforgiveness.

The place to begin in solving the problem of human relationships is not with people, but with God.

I. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

A. This verse tells us a lot about the Holy Spirit.

Vs 30

- It tells us that He is a person with feelings, emotions, and a will. We should also not resist Him or quench the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not some cosmic force.

Illus – in Star Wars good is a just a force to get in touch with. This is not a good representation of the Holy Spirit. The Mormons and Jehovah’s Witness do not believe the Holy Spirit is a person.

- It tells us that the Holy Spirit has a personal relationship with us. You can only grieve someone who loves you.

Illus – The opposite of love is not hate, but rather apathy. The Holy Spirit does not have apathy; He is deeply concerned about us and grieves over our decisions.

One of the pictures we see of Christ’s grief was when Peter denied Him three times and after the third time He looked directly at Peter. The scripture says that Peter immediately went and wept deeply.

B. Paul says that we should not grieve Him because we are sealed by Him for the day of redemption.

- There are several purposes of a seal.
 - **For identification.** (The enemy mocks this by the seal on the forehead and back of the hand in the last days.)
 - **For preservation** – to ensure that we arrive safely to the day of redemption.
- What is the day of redemption? Paul says that we are awaiting the day of our full redemption, and he was making reference to the redemption of our bodies.

Eph 1:13-14

Illus – Someday we will have glorified bodies that will be like that of Christ’s. We will no longer have bad backs, or creaky elbows, or...

- What is the process of grieving the Holy Spirit?
Gal 5:16-17 – the flesh and the Spirit are at enmity with each other. **First**, there is an internal conflict, **then** we are divided, **soon**, we lose our joy and our peace, **then** fear, worry, and many troubles follow.

- If the Holy Spirit is at work in us then we can see the fruit. This is His work.

Illus- There is a vast difference between loving someone for who he/she is and loving someone because of what God has done in us.

II. What grieves the Holy Spirit?

Vs 31

- A. Notice that the list has to do the result of unforgiveness.
- **Bitterness** – Resentment, long term unforgiveness that affects the whole person. It comes from the concept of a bitter root spoiling a well.
 - **Wrath** – hotheadedness, this an outward sign of the inward turmoil.
 - **Anger** – Internal boiling or burning that we do as a response to someone’s words or actions.
 - **Clamor** - Bickering, fighting, shouting, making an uproar.
 - **Slander** – saying something hurtful about someone else.
 - **Malice** – the hidden desire to see someone hurt, damaged or taken down. Spite.
- B. Some people say they cannot forgive because the offense is too great.
- It is true that we cannot forgive until we have put off these things.
 - We find a great problem when we stay focused on what hurt us.

- Why do we keep our hurt? We wouldn’t do it if we didn’t get some benefit. It gives is a sense of control, or revenge, or justice.

III. Put on Christ – be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

A. We should forgive as God has forgiven us.

Illus – Jesus told a parable of a man who had a great debt (in today’s money, maybe \$16M), but it was forgiven. He then went and found someone who owed him \$17 and he forcefully demanded it be repaid...

- In another place Jesus taught that he who is forgiven much loves much. We should forgive out of love for Christ.
- And we should forgive because we dot not want to grieve the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

There is only one perfect forgiver – His name is Jesus. Sometimes we need to forgive over and over.

There are times when counselors or pastors who do harm to people when they tell people to forgive and assume that to forgive once is sufficient to solve the pain.

We may need to forgive over and over. There is only one perfect forgiver. His name is Jesus.