

Pastor Robert Rutta

Grieve Not the Spirit

Ephesians 4:25-32

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit of God is a person (personality) and not merely a force.

The Bible teaches that He is a person and that He is subject to many of the same feelings and emotions common to personality.

The passage we are looking at tonight has some very important things to say out our treatment of the personality of the Holy Spirit.

Read: v17-19

God doesn't want us to walk as other Gentiles walk.

We are supposed to be different.

5:2 We are to walk in love, following the example of Christ.

This is a complete change of our manner of life.

In v25-32 we see a list of put-on / put-off principles.

- Old man / New man
- Lying / Truth
- Sinful anger / Anger w/o sin
- Stealing / Laboring
- Corrupt communication / Edifying communication

We are not to grieve the Holy Spirit.

The meaning of grief is a keen mental suffering or distress over affliction or loss; a sharp sorrow; or a painful regret.

V30 tells us that we are not to grieve Him.

He has sealed us till the day of redemption.

He indwells us and is a part of us.

We should have a love for Him that causes us to want to bring Him pleasure and not sorrow.

Eph 1:13 'In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.'

Because of His indwelling, we need to be careful not to grieve Him.

He will be with us until we come into the presence of the Lord.

Just as we try to treat any houseguest kindly, we need to especially be conscious of the Holy Spirit.

To grieve Him is more than just to offend Him; it is to bring Him sorrow.

He suffers pain because of our actions.

I. An Unpleasant Possibility "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God"

A. The Spirit of God can be grieved. He can easily be made sorrowful concerning specific things.

B. How is the Holy Spirit grieved? There are several indications in the passage:

1. Lying (verse 25).
2. Anger (verse 26).

3. Yielding to temptation (verse 27).
4. Stealing (verse 28).
5. Corrupt communications (verse 29).
6. Improper interpersonal relationships (verses 31 & 32).

It grieves the Holy Spirit when His children don't get along with each other.
It grieves Him when we have bitterness and wrath and anger and evil speaking and malice.

He is grieved when we fuss and fight or criticize each other.

God's plan is that we would have harmony with each other so that we could accomplish more for God.
When God's people are not in harmony, it greatly hinders our effectiveness and that grieves the Holy Spirit.

Illus.

We are the same. I am grieved when my children don't get along.
As a parent, one of the greatest things to see is our children getting along.

When we think of grieving the Holy Spirit, it centers mostly on our actions to others, and especially to those in the Family of God.

Our love for God should be a driving force that keeps us from doing the things that will grieve Him.

V31 and 32 continue the thought

- A. The presence of certain things is grieving, and thus these things should be put off:
 1. Bitterness - bitter hatred.
 2. Wrath - sudden outbursts of boiling anger.
 3. Anger - gradual buildup of hatred and resentment with eye to vengeance.
 4. Clamor - the noise made by people who are shouting back and forth in a quarrel.
 5. Evil speaking - slanderous, injurious speech about someone's character.
 6. All malice - a vicious disposition.

- B. The absence of certain things is grieving, and thus these things should be put on:
 1. Two qualities of character.
 - a. "Be ye kind to one another" - mild, pleasant, kind, beneficial.
 - b. "Tenderhearted" - compassionate.

 2. An underlying principle - "forgiving one another."
 - a. Most failure to have right relationships is failure to forgive.
 - b. This is to be done "even as God for Christ sake hath forgiven you."

II. A Serious Result

A. If we consistently grieve the Holy Spirit, then it will hinder the relationship between the Spirit and ourselves.

B. The Spirit must turn from a ministry **through** us to a ministry **to** us.

This is a very important thought.

He wants you to be strong and He wants to work through you.

If you won't let him work through you, then that greatly changes the type of ministry that He has in your life.

You become the one that He has to work on, and not through.

"Every Christian is either a missionary or a mission field."

C. Note that the Spirit's ministry is limited in us, but He does not depart from us. This limiting of the Holy Spirit's ministry in us was something that the Apostle Paul was very fearful of. 1 Corinthians 9:27

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Even Paul was afraid that God might put him on the shelf and not use him anymore. This was not a question of salvation.

Paul was very aware that he was only a vessel that the Lord was using. The vessel is not what is special and can always be replaced. If he was an unclean vessel, then the Lord would find another.

Romans 9:21

“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”

Also read II Tim 2:19-26

This is similar to the children of Israel in the Wilderness. They were God's people, but they didn't accomplish a lot. They didn't have the faith to enter into the promised land, so they were left to wander. The next generation had the faith necessary to cross the Jordan and go into the land. They faced great battles, but they also had wonderful victories. They enjoyed the fruit of the land – things that those in the wilderness only dreamed of and complained that they didn't have.

If a person continually grieves the Holy Spirit, then He moves on to work through another.

III. A Suggested Solution

A. The answer is stated in the text: put off and put on.

B. This comes as we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and lives. It is a serious business to grieve the Holy Spirit.

It is most important to make it right any time we feel that we may have done so. A right relationship with the Holy Spirit is essential to all other right relationships in life.