

DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD

Ephesians 4:30-32

1/Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (30)

- ✦ Note the context—how we communicate with each other (25-32)
- ✦ Deceit, anger, corrupt talk, bitterness etc grieve the Holy Spirit
- ✦ Grieve = pain, injure, make sorrowful, cause to weep
- ✦ Why is the Holy Spirit grieved when we sin?
- ✦ He is a person (not just a force).
 - Only a person can be grieved
 - Grammatically, the definite article ('the') indicates His person-hood
- ✦ He is holy
 - Therefore offended by sin
- ✦ He is the Holy Spirit of God
 - Therefore to be obeyed

2/By whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (30)

- ✦ After we believe, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit (1:13)
- ✦ A seal is a guarantee
- ✦ When the Spirit comes upon us He guarantees our redemption

3/Let all... be put away (31)

- ✦ All bitterness
- ✦ All wrath
- ✦ All anger
- ✦ All clamour
- ✦ All slander
- ✦ All malice

4/Put away... (31)

- ✦ Put away = pick up and carry away; take away; make a clean sweep
- ✦ It is an imperative (ie a command)
- ✦ The Greek Aorist tense is used which indicates *once for all*
- ✦ All = all!

5/ALL bitterness (31)

- ✦ Bitterness is toxic—like a spreading cancer
- ✦ It causes trouble
- ✦ It defiles people
- ✦ We dare not nurture it!
- ✦ See Deut 29:16-28; Hebrews 12:15

6/ALL wrath (31)

- ❖ Wrath = strong anger; a rush or flare-up of anger; strong passion
- ❖ We tend to justify it
- ❖ Self-mastery = a fruit of the Spirit
- ❖ Wrath and self-mastery do not co-exist!
- ❖ Read Proverbs 14:17; 16:32

7/ALL anger

- ❖ Anger = prolonged, seething, cultivated anger
- ❖ Inconsistent with the fruit of the Spirit
- ❖ Grieves the Holy Spirit
- ❖ See Proverbs 19:11; Col 3:8
- ❖ Note: There are occasions when anger is justifiable—see Mark 3:5.

8/ALL clamour (31)

- ❖ Clamour = outcry, shouting, brawling (NIV).
- ❖ No place for this among God's people
- ❖ Today's noisy world affects us negatively
- ❖ Eg effect of recorded music at shopping centres, railway stations: less vandalism with light classical music.
- ❖ Eg Mennonite attitude: tranquillity and peace characterises their homes

9/ALL slander (31)

- ❖ Slander (*blasphemia*) = speaking evil of another person; calumny; defamation
- ❖ Many proverbs denounce this—
- ❖ Proverbs 10:18-21; 11:9, 12, 13; 12:18; 13:3; 15:4; 16:13, 28; 18:8, 21; 21:23; 25:11; 30:10.
- ❖ See Eph 4:29.

10/ALL slander (31)

- ❖ Tongues = usual initial sign of the Spirit coming upon us
- ❖ Symbolic of the Spirit taking control of our most difficult member (James 3)
- ❖ But—if our speech does not continually glorify God and help others, we (not the gift) are just noisy gongs and clanging cymbals (1 Cor 13:1)

11/ALL malice (31)

- ❖ Malice = badness; malignity; evil; trouble
- ❖ Holiness is God's will for us
- ❖ We do not want to grieve the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Sin is never acceptable; there is never any excuse for it

12/Be kind to one another (32)

- ❖ Kind (*chrestos*) = benevolent; good; gracious; agreeable; benign
- ❖ Mellow (Luke 5:39)
- ❖ An early Latin writer said Christians followed Jesus Chrestos (instead of *Christos* = anointed One). But he was not too far wrong.
- ❖ Certainly, God has been kind to us! (Eph 2:7; Titus 3:4)

13/Be tender hearted (32)

- ✦ Tender hearted = having good viscera!
- ✦ It means deeply-felt love
- ✦ Love that touches and moves us
- ✦ The Holy Spirit helps us to feel the needs of others

14/Forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you (32)

- ✦ Forgive (*charidzomai*) = act graciously and generously
- ✦ From *charis* (grace)
- ✦ We are to forgive as God *in Christ* forgave us.
- ✦ Note: Cannot expect to be forgiven if we are not kind and tender-hearted ourselves
- ✦ How did God forgive us? (Think about the details.) So should we forgive!
- ✦ Eg the Lord's prayer: 'Forgive us... as we forgive...'

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (30)

- ✦ When we use our speech for evil, we grieve and sadden the Holy Spirit
- ✦ To be filled with the Spirit means not just to speak in tongues but also to speak in love!

Our response

- ✦ How shall we respond?
- ✦ Is there someone we should see?
- ✦ Is there a matter to be put right?
- ✦ Is there an apology to make?
- ✦ Is there an action we should forgive?
- ✦ Let's pray about these matters right now...

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Read Ephesians 4:30-32

1. Think about your own life over the last week. How often have you said things and done things that would grieve the Holy Spirit?
2. Think about one of these: what could you have done differently?
3. We already have redemption (Ephesians 1:7), yet there is a day of redemption coming (30). How do we explain this? Compare 1 Peter 1:5.
4. Can you think of cases in your experience where bitterness has done more harm to the bitter person than to anyone else? (If you are in a group, try to avoid using names or anything else that might identify the person concerned.) What could the person concerned have done differently?
5. Consider the six sins Paul lists in verse 31. Why do you think these things grieve the Holy Spirit? Consider them one by one.
6. Paul says we should put all of these far away from us. Is he being intolerant? Is there sometimes some excuse for what we do? Why or why not?

7. Consider the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). Which of these is in direct contrast with each of the six sins in verse 31?
8. What does it mean to be kind? (32)
9. What does it mean to be tenderhearted (ESV) or compassionate (NIV)? (32)
10. Why is God's forgiveness only through Christ? (Romans 5 might help here.)
11. How did God forgive us? (32) Think of as many aspects as you can.

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