

# “Do Not Grieve The Holy Spirit”

## Ephesians 4:17-32

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**Teaching Aim:** To understand the change towards righteousness and holiness that should take place in the life of every believer after coming to faith in Christ. To recognize Christians are to put off “*the old man*” (the former lifestyle) and put on “*the new man*” (as guided by the Holy Spirit) to become more like Jesus. To realize we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit by our words or actions, *but are to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave us”.*

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*Bible Study*)

#### **Part I: Putting off the old man and putting on the new man created in the image of God, reflecting true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:17-24)**

1. What did Paul mean when he informed the Ephesians, “...you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk” (vs. 17)? What are some changes that have taken place in your own life since coming to faith in Christ? In what way do you see unbelievers walking in “*the futility of their mind*” today? (See **Rom. 1:18-32**)
  
2. In what sense do you see unbelievers “*alienated from the life of God*” (vs. 18)? What do we mean when we say someone is “*ignorant*”? According to **2 Cor. 4:3-4**, who is the cause of the unbeliever’s blindness? In what way, if any, does reading **2 Cor. 4:3-4** change your view of the unbelievers you are witnessing to; whether family or friends? How should we as Christians respond to their unbelief?
  
3. What can we learn from **verses 18 & 19** about what we see at movie theaters and on television today? How does **verse 19** contrast with the Biblical teaching about Jesus (vs. **20**)? If you could use ten words to describe Jesus to an unbeliever, what would they be?
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  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
  - 8.
  - 9.
  - 10.

4. According to **verses 21 & 22**, what is the born-again believer to do in regard to the old man (*or former lifestyle*)? What are some practical ways for the Christian to be renewed in his or her mind (**vs. 23**)? (**See Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 4:4-9**) How does the statement “*Garbage in, garbage out*” relate to the Christian life today? What steps can you take to become more Christ-like?
  
5. According to **verse 24**, what characteristics should we see in the new man? What did Paul mean when he said to “*put on the new man*” (**vs. 24**)? (**See 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:3-9**) Name three ways that coming to Christ has changed your life.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

## **Part II: Principles for godly living (Eph. 4:25-29)**

1. How does lying affect your relationship with other people (**vs. 25**)? How does it affect your relationship with God? (**See Psa. 66:18**) Is a half-truth a lie? What was the first sin among church members to be judged in the Book of Acts? (**See Acts 5:1-11**) What was the result? Rather than lying, what should the mark of a Christian be according to **verse 25**?
  
2. Is anger “*always*” a sin (**vs. 26**)? (**See Num. 25:4; Duet. 9:8,20; Jn. 2:13-16**) Is it ever appropriate for a Christian to be angry? If so, when? Have you ever been angry about injustices that you’ve witnessed? At what point does a Christian’s “*righteous anger*” become sin? How should Christians respond to riots currently taking place in our land today?
  
3. Why do you think the Bible tells us not to let the sun go down in our anger (**vs. 26**)? Have you ever gone to bed angry with someone? How did you feel in the morning? What happens when anger is not dealt with in a timely manner (**vs. 27**)? How does the illustration of children’s building blocks reflect the need to deal with your anger quickly?

4. What are some ways that Christians steal today either intentionally or unintentionally (**vs. 28**)? (See **Mal. 3:8-10**) Instead of stealing, what should Christians do according to the Bible (**vs. 28**)? Why is it important for believers to work with their hands so that they not only meet their own needs, but so that they can also help other people?
  
5. Instead of using inappropriate words and coarse joking, what kind of language should come out of the mouth of a Christian (**vs. 29**)? What kind of language was Paul speaking of when he referred to "*corrupt words*?" Why is it important for every Christian to be careful what they say? (See **Matt. 12:36-37; Jam. 3:5**) Have you ever caused damage by the words you've spoken?

**Part III: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30-32)**

1. How does the fact that the Holy Spirit can be grieved demonstrate that He truly is "*a person*" (**vs. 30**)? How do the other two members of the Holy Trinity (The Father & the Son) demonstrate emotion? The Jehovah's Witnesses refer to the Holy Spirit as a force. Question: Does a force demonstrate emotion? What various kinds of emotion does a person demonstrate? What can we learn about the role of the Holy Spirit from **verse 30**?
  
2. According to **verses 25-30**, what are some of the behaviors that grieve the Holy Spirit? Where do we find the eternal security of the true believer in **verse 30**?
  
3. According to **verse 31**, what six attitudes must the believer in Christ put away? Why? What will happen to a church in which these attitudes are found? What happens to a person's heart the longer these attitudes persist?
 

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

4. According to **verse 32**, what three attitudes should we find in the believer's life? Why are these attitudes essential for the health of any church body?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  
5. Why is it so important for Christians to be able to forgive? (**See Matt. 6:14-15; Mk. 11:25-26; Lk. 23:32-35**) Warren Wiersbe says, "*An unforgiving spirit is the devil's playground.*" Why? How has unforgiveness affected you? Is there anybody in your life that you need to forgive? (**See Matt. 18:21-22**) What is stopping you?
  
6. Think of several ways that God has forgiven you in the past? Take some time in prayer today to thank God for the love and tender mercies He has shared with you in Christ!

**MINER'S CORNER - *Manna to live by!***

- Concerning our former conduct, we are to put off "*the old man*" (*our old lifestyle of sin*).
- Instead we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds through worship, mind saturation of the Word of God, prayer, and fellowship with other believers.
- As Christians, we should be clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, living out our lives in true righteousness and holiness.
- As Christians, we should not grieve the Holy Spirit who has sealed us for the day of redemption.
- Each Christian should replace lying for the truth; stealing for hard work and sharing; unwholesome talk for encouraging and uplifting words.
- As Christians, we should be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and quick to forgive when offended remembering that in Christ, God has forgiven us of the many wrongs we have done to Him.