

Do Not Grieve The Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:17-32

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Lesson Aim: To illustrate the change towards holiness that should occur in a believer's life after conversion. To demonstrate 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 (the former lifestyle) and putting on the new man created in the image of God, reflecting true righteousness and holiness". (Eph. 4:17-24)

- * What does Paul mean when he says, "...you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk" (vs. 17)? What are some changes that have occurred in your own life since coming to Christ? How do unbelievers walk in "the futility of their mind"? (See Rom. 1:18-32)

- * Name some ways unbelievers are "alienated from the life of God" (vs. 18)? What does it mean to be 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 unbelievers and their lifestyles? How should we as Christians respond as we minister to unbelievers?

- * In what ways do verses 18 & 19 represent what we see at the movie theaters and on television today? How does verse 19 contrast with what the Bible teaches us about Christ (vs. 20)?

- * According to verses 21 & 22, what is the born again believer to do in regards to the old man (the old sin nature)? What are some practical ways a Christian can be renewed in the spirit of his/her mind (vs. 23)? (See Rom. 12:2) How does the statement "Garbage in, garbage out!" apply to the

Christian life? What are some practical ways a Christian can become more Christ-like?

- * What does it mean to “put on the new man” (vs. 24)? (See 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:3–9) What should be the result of putting on “the new man” in the Christian’s life?

Part II: Principles for godly living (Eph. 4:25–32)

- * How does lying affect your relationship with other people (vs. 25)? How does lying affect your relationship with God? 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 be the mark of the Christian according to verse 25?
- * 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? When? At what point does a Christian’s “righteous anger” become sin? Can you think of any modern day examples that have gotten out of hand?
- * Why does the Bible tell us not to let the sun go down in our anger (vs. 26)? How do children’s building blocks effectively reflect this principle? What happens when unresolved anger is not dealt with in a speedy manner (vs. 27)?
- * What are some ways that we steal today either intentionally or unintentionally (vs. 28)? (Also see Mal. 3:8–10) Instead of stealing, what should the believer be doing according to the Bible (vs. 28)? Why?
- * Instead of using inappropriate words and coarse joking, what kind of language should the Christian be using (vs. 29)? What kind of corrupt words might be referred to here? (See Matt. 12:36–37)

- * How does the grieving of the Holy Spirit demonstrate His “personhood” as a member of the Holy Trinity (**vs. 30**)? Question: Does a force have emotion? How about a person? What does verse 30 teach about the Holy Spirit?

- * According to verses 25–30, what are some things people do to grieve the Holy Spirit? How does verse 30 demonstrate the doctrine of the eternal security of the true believer?

- * According to verse 31, what six attitudes must be put away from the believer? Why? What happens in the Church when these attitudes prevail? What happens in the individual’s heart?

- * According to verse 32, what three attitudes should be prevalent in the believer’s life? Why? How do these attitudes positively affect the Church body?

- * 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? Is there anybody in your life you need to forgive? (**See Matt. 18:21–22**) What is stopping you?

- * List some ways God has forgiven you? Take some time and thank Him in prayer for His kindness and loving mercy to you!

MINER’S CORNER – Manna to live by!

1. Concerning our former conduct, we are to put off “the old man” (our old lifestyle of sin).

2. Instead we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds through Bible study, prayer, fellowship with other believers, and instruction in God's Word.
3. As Christians we should be clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, living lives of holiness out of our love and reverence for Him.
4. We are to replace lying for the truth; stealing for hard work and sharing; unwholesome talk for encouraging and uplifting words.
5. As Christians we should be kind, tenderhearted and quick to forgive others remembering that in Christ, God has forgiven us of the wrongs we have done to Him.