

Directional Devo
Letter to the Ephesians
Ephesians 4:30-5:2
4/13/16

vv.30-31 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*

Paul now tells us that if we do the above mentioned things (i.e., lying, stealing, uncontrolled anger, and corrupt language, we actually ***grieve the Holy Spirit of God***.

Grieve means to inflict sorrow.

The verse clearly shows us that the Holy Spirit is a person.

Many today claim that the Holy Spirit is actually more of a force on par with the Star Wars.

However, the Scriptures simply do not support that view.

1. I Corinthians 2:10-11 – He searches and has knowledge.
2. I Corinthians 12:11 – He distributes gifts as He wills.
3. Romans 8:27 - He has a mind.
4. Romans 15:30 - He loves us.
5. John 15:26,16:13 - He testifies of Jesus and exalts the Father and Son over Himself.
6. Personal pronouns are used when referring to the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17, John 16:7-15).
7. Personal acts are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Acts 13:2 - the Holy Spirit speaks.
 - b. Romans 8:26 - the Holy Spirit intercedes for us.
 - c. I John 2:20-27. John 14:26 - He teaches us.
 - d. Acts 16:6-7 - the Holy Spirit guides Paul, sometimes forbidding things.
 - e. Genesis 6:3 - the Spirit strives with man.
8. The Holy Spirit can receive treatment as a person.
 - a. Ephesians 4:30 - He can be grieved by us.
 - b. Hebrews 10:29 - We can insult Him.
 - c. Acts 5:3 - He can be lied to.
 - d. Matthew 12:31-32 - He can be blasphemed.

9. The Holy Spirit is identified with the Father and the Son as a person.
 - a. Matthew 28:19 - He is named with the Father and Son in baptism.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 13:14 - He is named with the Father and Son in benediction.
 - c. Acts 15:28 - He is identified with the believers as a person.

v.32 *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

Albert Barnes sums up this section by saying, “Christianity produces true courteousness, or politeness. It does not make one rough, crabby, or sour; nor does it dispose its followers to violate the proper rules of social contact. The secret of true politeness is “benevolence,” or a desire to make others happy; and a Christian should be the most polite of people. There is no religion in a sour, misanthropic temper; none in rudeness, stiffness, and repulsiveness; none in violating the rules of good breeding.”

John MacArthur says, “Those who have been forgiven much by God should, of all people, forgive the relatively small offenses against them by others.”

Chapter 5

v.1 *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*

The *therefore* refers back to the last verse of chapter four where we are told to forgive.

Forgiveness has proven to be necessary for good mental health.

Unforgiveness eats of the unforgiver, not the unforgiven.

Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

v.2 *And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

The ultimate love is forgiveness.

Illustration: The Mayo Clinic defines forgiveness as “a decision to let go of resentment and thoughts of revenge.” They further say that “the act that hurt or offended you might always remain a part of your life, but forgiveness can lessen its grip on you and help you focus on other, more positive parts of your life. Forgiveness can even lead to feelings of understanding, empathy and compassion for the one who hurt you.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that you deny the other person's responsibility for hurting you, and it doesn't minimize or justify the wrong. You can forgive the person without excusing the act. Forgiveness brings a kind of peace that helps you go on with life."

Luke 23:34 *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*

All that Jesus did was for our forgiveness.

Matthew 6:12 *And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*

Matthew 6:14-15 *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

True forgiveness results in reconciliation.

Illustration: A couple married for 15 years began having more than usual disagreements. They wanted to make their marriage work and agreed on an idea the wife had. For one month they planned to drop a slip in a "Fault" box. The boxes would provide a place to let the other know about daily irritations. The wife was diligent in her efforts and approach: "leaving the jelly top off the jar," "wet towels on the shower floor," "dirty socks not in hamper," on and on until the end of the month. After dinner, at the end of the month, they exchanged boxes. The husband reflected on what he had done wrong. Then the wife opened her box and began reading. They were all the same, the message on each slip was, "I love you!"