

Grieving the Spirit

Ephesians 4:23-32

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Be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need...

Ephesians 4:23-32, cont.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Watchman Nee

“God has given us Christ. There is nothing now for us to receive outside of Him. The Holy Spirit has been sent to produce what is of Christ in us; not to produce anything that is apart from or outside of Him. We are ‘strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man; ... to know the love of Christ’ (Eph. 3:16,19). What we show forth outwardly is what God first put within.”
(from Sit, Walk, Stand)

Grieving God

- To grieve means to feel sadness for loss
- What once was and is no more
- What could have been but is squandered
- “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:11-13).

Three areas of grief

- **Our hearts – What sin and unrighteous do to us.**
- **Others – How our sin impacts others.**
- **God – How our sin impacts God.**

1. Sin pollutes our hearts

- **“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil” (4:25-27).**
- **“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life” (Proverbs 4:23).**

The Believer's Heart

- **“Having put away falsehood” – a truthful heart**
- **“Speak the truth with his neighbor” – a sharing heart**
- **“Be angry” – a good and courageous and proactive heart**
- **“and sin not” – a loving and forgiving heart**
- **“Do not give the devil a foothold” - a wise and discerning heart**

Righteous Indignation

- **Mark 3:5: “And he (Jesus) looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart.”**
- **Man’s anger is bad: “The wrath of man works not the righteousness of God” (James 1:20).**
- **Anger that includes vengeance, revenge, retaliation, a desire to hurt others, is unholy.**
- **Godly anger is directed at what angers God. “Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.” (Bob Pierce)**

2. Our sin impacts others

- “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” (4:28-29).**

Sharing with Others

- **Rabbi Hillel taught this principle in the negative, “That which is hateful to you, do not do to others.”**
- **But Christ the positive: “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12).**
- **“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:9-10).**

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Selfish or Godly?

- **Doers – don't just do for yourself**
 - Don't steal
 - Do honest work
 - Share with others
- **Speakers – don't just speak for yourself**
 - No corrupting talk
 - Good for building up
 - Give grace

3. Our sin impacts God

- “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (4:30-32).**

In Christ ...

- **We can have new hearts**
- **We can have new relationships**
- **We can live lives that please God**