

Don't Grieve the Holy Spirit

(Ephesians 4:29-32)

by Leon Barnes

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Bible mentions a number of ways in which one can sin against the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. One may blaspheme the Spirit (Matthew 12).
 - 2. One may resist the Spirit (Acts 7:51).
 - 3. One may quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
 - 4. And, as we see from our text, one may grieve the Spirit.
- B. All of these suggest several truths about the nature of the Spirit and His work with men.
 - 1. It suggests personality. How could an influence be grieved?
 - 2. It suggests that the Spirit of God does not overwhelm or overthrow the free moral agency of man (cf. Acts 2:40).
 - 3. It also suggests that Christian people may sin against the Spirit and refuse His teaching. Both 1 Thessalonians and Ephesians were written to Christians.

I. HOW IS THE SPIRIT GRIEVED?

- A. He is grieved by corrupt or unwholesome speech (4:29).
 - 1. Anything which tears down rather than builds up would be a part of this. Contrast this truth with "edification."
 - 2. That which does not bring about grace or favor from harm is corrupt.
 - 3. Slander or evil speaking would be included.
- B. Bitterness would be included (cf. Colossians 3:19).

- 1. How can we have the love for brethren we are supposed to have and bitterness be a part of our lives?
- 2. Consider the characteristics of love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).
- C. Wrath and anger would be included. It is possible to be angry and not sin (4:26), but it is not easy. We must be "slow to anger" (James 1:19, 20).
 - 1. Jesus became angry and it did not cause any kind of sin in the temple.
 - 2. But it was not a selfish anger and it did not cause Him to lose control and say things that ought not to be said.
 - 3. Elders are given special charge about anger (Titus 1:7).
- D. Clamor would be involved.
 - 1. Clamor is a crying out, screaming, shouting.
 - 2. "It is used of tumult or controversy—wailing, of sorrow."
 - 3. "It is an outburst of words brought on by anger."
- E. All malice or sin would grieve the Spirit. Just any kind of sin grieves the Spirit of God.

II. WHAT MAKES THE SPIRIT REJOICE? (4:32).

- A. Kindness to each other makes the Spirit rejoice.
 - 1. Demonstrate love.
 - 2. Do you suppose God's Spirit is grieved at times with our actions toward other family members?

- B. Tenderheartedness makes the Spirit rejoice.
 - 1. Sin hardens the heart; righteousness softens it.
 - 2. Let us see what sin does and what God offers.
 - 3. We should be easily moved to compassion.

- C. Forgiveness for each other causes the Spirit to rejoice. We are to forgive “even as God forgave you” (cf. Matthew 6:14; 18:23-35).

- 1. How often are we to forgive? (Luke 17:3-5).
- 2. We cannot please God without it. Forgiveness is mandatory.

CONCLUSION

- A. Are you grieving the Holy Spirit?
- B. Are you making Him happy?

©Copyright, 1984, 2001 by Truth for Today
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED