

The Holy Spirit: Do Not Grieve the Spirit

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2

We have spent the last few months focusing on the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We would likely conclude by now that it does not come naturally to us but it is the produce of the Spirit of God energizing, working in and working through, our lives as committed believers in Christ. There is much more that could be considered regarding the Holy Spirit. We have merely scratched the surface. However, it seems very important that we conclude the study with a lesson that warns against grieving the Holy Spirit.

How does a Spirit grieve?

We must remember that the Holy Spirit is one of the three “persons” of the Trinity. As a person, it is possible for the Holy Spirit to grieve, to feel sorrow when believers do not live lives pleasing to God. (Ephesians 4:30) The Old Testament also includes mention of those who rebelled against God “and grieved his holy spirit.” (Isaiah 63:10)

- Reading through Ephesians 4:25 – 30, and although not an exhaustive list, what are the behaviors mentioned that should NOT characterize our lives since they grieve the Holy Spirit?
- In Ephesians 4:32, what must we do to show we are indeed living a new life in Christ empowered by the Spirit?
- Ephesians 5:1-2 instructs us to be “imitators of God.” What is central to that imitation?
- Paul also wrote in Philippians, “Let the same mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus...” (Phil. 4:5) What must be at the core of this like-mindedness? Look at the two verses that precede the call for us to have the same mind as Christ, to be just like Jesus. (Philippians 4:3-4.)

Praying regularly for the Holy Spirit to bear much fruit in our lives and truly desiring to please God in every way, will result in the new life we are being called to as individual believers as well as a community of faith.