

Bible Studies

Grieving the Spirit

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

What does this verse tell us about the Holy Spirit?



It tells us that the Holy Spirit is, 'of God' and It highlights His importance to us, because we are 'sealed' by Him. Most of all it tells us that the Holy Spirit is capable of being grieved.

There are people today who see the Holy Spirit as some sort of a force or an impersonal power. The Bible clearly shows that the Holy Spirit is personal in the same way that the Father and the Son are personal. You cannot grieve electricity, nor can you make the wind angry.

What does grieve mean in this context?

Grief means to afflict sorrow or deep trouble, but the Greek *Lupeo* also signifies pain of body or mind as well as distress, sorrow or heaviness.



- Does being grieved imply disappointment?**
- Does being grieved imply the loss of something you had hoped for?**
- What is the difference between being grieved and being angry?**
- How do each of these questions apply to the Holy Spirit and us?**

How does this relate to sin against God?

If you get a speeding ticket the policeman will not grieve, he will just do his job. The judge may get angry but he won't grieve. It requires someone to be hurt by your actions before grief is involved. When we sin against God, we do not just transgress an inanimate, unfeeling law, we offend a personal, caring God. Psalm 51v4.

This verse tells us that the Holy Spirit is personally involved with us. He is not indifferent or unconcerned. It also tells us that the Holy Spirit has an expectation within our lives. Grieving the Holy Spirit is an offence against love, not against law, power or control. It is a personal thing.

What is the Holy Spirit's attitude towards us? Romans 15v30

What are we to have in, or with the Spirit? Phil 2v1, 2 Cor 13v14

It is interesting how often love is referred to as a attribute of the Holy Spirit. Romans 5v5, Galatians 5v22, Colossians 1v8, 2 Timothy 1v7. Is it this that enables us to grieve the Spirit?

In a sermon Charles Spurgeon wrote on this verse, he asks the question, "do you love the Holy Spirit?" **Should we love the Spirit?**

What do you love about the Holy Spirit?

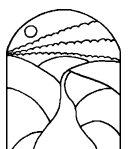
What do these verses teach about the Holy Spirit?

Hebrews 10v29	
Matthew 12v31	
Acts 5v3	
Acts 5v9	
Acts 7v51	
1 Thessalonians 5v19	

Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. Isaiah 63:10



- Read Ephesians 4v21-32**
- What context is this warning given in?**



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How do you think that we can grieve the Holy Spirit?

To answer this question you need to think of the things the Holy Spirit works to promote in our lives and in the Church.



What pleases the Holy Spirit?

The immediate context of Ephesians 4v30 is the misuse of the tongue, perhaps this is especially irksome as the Holy Spirit has a special claim on our speech. Eph 5v18, Acts 2v4.

What are the things in my life that grieve the Holy Spirit?

Why do you think Paul highlights the danger of grieving the Spirit not the Father?



Read 1 Corinthians 6v19-20

What does this mean?

What effect should it have on us?



Some examples of grieving

While Jesus was preaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath, He saw a man with a withered arm, Jesus wanted to heal him. One group of the Pharisees believed this to be a sin. It says that Jesus was '*grieved by the hardness of their hearts*' Mark 3:5 NKJV (deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts NIV).

The Children of Israel's behaviour in the Exodus, was a source of grieve to God. Psalm 95v10. *How often they rebelled against him in the desert and grieved him in the wasteland! Psalms 78:40.* As was the behaviour of mankind before the flood. Genesis 6v3,6.

How is the Spirit described in Romans 1v4?

Not only does the Holy Spirit personify the Holiness of God, It is also His job to promote the work of Holiness in us. It is the Holy Spirit who forms Christ's image in us, and produces the fruit of the Spirit in us.

Romans 15v16

1 Corinthians 6v11

2 Thessalonians 2v13

1 Peter 1v2

What is sanctification?

Paul's object in Ephesians 4v30 is to encourage us to reject sin. There are many ways that he could have described the seriousness of sin or it's effects on God and our relationship with Him. The phrase '*to grieve the Holy Spirit*' is very vivid and emotive. It brings home to us clearly the consequences of sin.

What is the danger of grieving the Holy Spirit?



Read Psalm 51v11-12

How do you understand v11b?

How do you think David understood it?

Do you think there is a link between '*the joy of Your salvation*' and '*sealed for the day of redemption*'?

I do not believe that for the sin of grieving the Holy Spirit, God will remove His Holy Spirit from us, in that He will, revoke our Salvation, or take away the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I do believe that grieving the Spirit will inhibit the Spirit's work in our live whether that be, the gifts, fruit, sanctification, guidance or the other manifold works of the Holy Spirit in our lives.