

Sermon: Ephesians 4:30 Personal Interference

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Read Ephesians 4:25-32 to give the context of the verse and the theme of our sermons on communication.

Intro: Have you ever said or done something that made your spouse really mad, but when you talked about it later you found out they were more hurt than mad?

Charles Spurgeon says, “When we cause others grief it is a mixture of anger and love.”

This describes the emotions of our spouse. They are angered by our actions or words yet they love us deeply and this creates a sense of grief, disappointment and hurt.

As we look at this passage this morning we are going to answer four key questions:

1. How do I grieve the Holy Spirit?
2. Why do I grieve the Holy Spirit?
3. What will happen to me if I grieve the Holy Spirit?
4. What should I do when I grieve the Holy Spirit?

1. How do I grieve the Holy Spirit?

We grieve the HS when our actions, words or thoughts are not pleasing to God.

Sometimes we just say, God, I know you are there and I know exactly what you want me to do but I am going to do something different. I have some things that I really want to say or have and so I am going to ignore you right now and do the opposite of what you want me to do, say or think. Other times we do something to offend another person. We may say something unkind, do something to them that is not nice or we just might think mean thoughts about them.

Ill. Andrew and I watching a fight at ESPN club and a hockey game broke out. The guy whacked another guy in the face with his stick, a personal foul. He personally interfered and off to the penalty box. We personally interfere and personally foul other people with how we treat them.

Need story of saying/doing the wrong thing to Julie

We all have our own ways in which we personally interfere with others. We usually do it with our words. You know that old saying, “Sticks and stones can break my bones but words will never hurt me.”? Well, that is so not true, words can really, really, really hurt. They cut deep and can stick around for a long time.

When we offend others, we have offended the Holy Spirit. God takes it personally when we tear other people down. It grieves the Holy Spirit who lives in us. We are essentially ignoring the power of the Holy Spirit and His leading us to speak encouraging words to others and this grieves Him, He is offended. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we don't live according to the way he intended us to live, and it gets to God's heart.

2. Why do I grieve the Holy Spirit?

Because our hearts are messed up. We want to blame our actions on other things don't we?

We will try and blame our road rage - on the guy who pulled out in front of me in traffic, we want to blame our stinging words - on someone because "they said something mean first."

We blame our hurtful words to our kids - because "they" did something bad.

We blame God for - not having enough money, or feeling like it's his fault because life is not turning out the way we wanted it to.

We grieve the Holy Spirit because we have our own selfish desires, our own selfish motives and when we don't get our way then we pitch a fit. We are just like the kid at the grocery store. When the mom says no to the candy in the check out lane, they pitch a fit. We do the same thing with each other and it grieves God. We have to understand that our outward behavior, including our words, are the fruit of what is going on inside of our hearts. Remember the story in Luke 6,

^{ESV} **Luke 6:43** "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. ⁴⁶ "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

"out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." We really can blame no one else for our actions and words except ourselves. Why do we grieve the Holy Spirit? Not because we are maliciously trying to hurt Him, but because we have our own selfish desires we want and we will sometimes do anything to get them.

When we inappropriately yell at our kids for doing something wrong, it's not their actions that caused us to do it but rather that was just the occasion, the trigger for my heart to express itself. Our words reveal the true desires of our hearts.[we are angry when our kids do something stupid in public" because it makes us look bad"]

3. What will happen to me if I grieve the Holy Spirit?

All I can say is that you better watch your back, because God is going to get you.????

No, God is not going to "get you".

The passage says that we have been sealed for the day of redemption. Sealed. The Holy Spirit has sealed your salvation. Period. If you have believed in Christ as the one who died on the cross to pay for your personal rebellion, to take away your dead heart and to give you a new one, then the Holy Spirit has come into your life and sealed you, meaning, He has secured your way to heaven for you. The seal cannot be broken.

Why can't the seal be broken? Remember, you were chosen by God the Father, you have been redeemed by the work of Christ on the cross, you did not choose God, you did not work your way back into His favor, you have not tipped the scales of good works so that you can say that your own good works got you into heaven. Our good works are like filthy rags to God. But Jesus' work on the cross, dying for your sins, paying the death penalty for you has secured your salvation, and the Holy Spirit has sealed it. So,

God, the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit have all played their roles in getting you into heaven and since nothing is more powerful than God, nothing can snatch you away or break the seal.

But what if I keep on doing what is wrong, and keep on sinning? When the Holy Spirit comes into your heart then He starts to change it and gradually giving you holy, pure desires to please Him and live for Him and not for yourself anymore. You will still sin, we all do and will, but God, through Jesus has forgiven our past, present and future sins, he has set us free from sin's bonding effect on our hearts. So, we do struggle still with sin but the Holy Spirit helps us, and enables us to say no to it. That is why it grieves the Holy Spirit when we ignore Him and shun His help.

4. What should I do when I grieve the Holy Spirit?

Be sorry for your sin and rebelliousness and turn back to God by faith in Jesus. You need to be constantly in a state of repentance and belief. Turning away from our own selfish desires and turn back to God by believing what Jesus has accomplished for you on the cross.

Repent and believe. Repent and believe. Repent and believe. Repent and believe.

Conclusion:

Let's go back to the grief we have caused our spouse. They are angry at us but they still love us, they are experiencing grief. But what will they do? They will remember the commitment they made to us, the commitment that we will be married until death do us part. Based on that commitment, they will forgive us, and forget the offense, they will love us unconditionally and look forward to an even deeper marriage. At least that's the way it should work.

And that is how it works with God. The Holy Spirit will be grieved by our sin, He will remember the eternal commitment He made with us, bound by the blood of Christ, He will forgive us and He will look forward to an even deeper relationship with Him.