

## **CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS**

### **Session 4 - A Living That Does Not Grieve the Holy Spirit**

#### **Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:22-32**

**Ep 4:22** That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,

**Ep 4:23** And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

**Ep 4:24** And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

**Ep 4:25** Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

**Ep 4:26** Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation,

**Ep 4:27** Neither give place to the devil.

**Ep 4:28** He who steals should steal no more, but rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable, that he may have something to share with him who has need.

**Ep 4:29** Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

**Ep 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

**Ep 4:31** Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice.

**Ep 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

#### **Today's Reading**

Let us now consider the details of a living of learning Christ. In verse 25 Paul says, "Wherefore, having put off the falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another." Falsehood here refers to anything that is false in nature. As we have put off the old man, we have also put off everything false. If we have the enjoyment of Christ, then in a practical way in our daily living we shall put off every false thing. The most honest and faithful people are those who have the full enjoyment of Christ. When we are filled to the brim with Christ, all falsehood will be put away from us. Having put off the falsehood, we should speak truth each one with his neighbor. When we are filled with Christ, our speaking will be of things that are true. In our speaking there will be no lies and no vanity.

Verses 26 and 27 say, "Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation, neither give place to the Devil." Anger itself is not sin, but it is dangerously close to sin. According to the four Gospels, the Lord Jesus sometimes was angry. But His anger was always under control. Hence, He could be angry and not sin. It must be the same with us in our daily living. According to

the Scriptures, we must relinquish our anger before the sun goes down. We all need to practice this. For such a practice, we need God in Christ as grace. According to the context, to continue in anger is to give place to the Devil. If we hold on to our anger, we are actually welcoming the Devil. But if we relinquish our anger, we close the door to the Devil and give him no place.

Verse 29 says, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for needful building up, that it may give grace to those who hear.” The Greek word for corrupt signifies something that is noxious, offensive, or worthless. Our conversation should not corrupt others, but should build them up. The church and every member of the church need the proper building up. This building up is accomplished primarily by our speaking. What proceeds out of our mouth should be that which is good for the building up of the church and all the saints. Furthermore, the word out of our mouth should give grace to those who hear. Grace is God embodied in Christ as our enjoyment and supply. Our word should convey this as grace to others. The word that builds up others always ministers grace to the hearers. Our word should communicate God in Christ as enjoyment, imparting Christ to others as their life supply.

In verse 30 Paul says, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in Whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.” The word “and” at the beginning of this verse indicates that in addition to all the things mentioned in verses 25 through 29, one crucial thing is needed, that is, that we should not grieve the Holy Spirit. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to displease Him. The Holy Spirit abides in us forever (John 14:16-17); He never leaves us. Hence, He is grieved when we do not walk according to Him (Rom. 8:4). If we have a life according to the principle of truth with grace for the details of our daily walk, we shall not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. However, if we do not live this way, the Spirit within us will be grieved. For the Holy Spirit to be grieved means that He is not happy with us. Often when we feel unhappy, that feeling of unhappiness is actually the feeling of the Holy Spirit. However, when He feels happy within us, we are happy also. A proper life according to truth and in grace will always make the Holy Spirit happy and give us the joy of the Spirit.

Finally, verse 32 says, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as also God in Christ forgave you.” Only the enjoyment of Christ as our life supply and as our joy can make our hearts tender. If we are tenderhearted, we shall forgive others. In our daily walk, we need both to forgive others and to ask others to forgive us. This is necessary because we are easily offended and we easily offend others. If we have offended someone, we need to ask for forgiveness. But if we have been offended, we need to extend forgiveness to others, even as God in Christ has forgiven us.

In his exhortation in this section, the apostle presents God as the pattern of our daily life. By the life of God, in His Spirit, we can forgive as God forgives. If this is our daily living, we shall not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. To have such a living, we need to live according to truth and by God in Christ as our grace.