

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for May 8, 2022

Sermon Notes

The Nitty Gritty of Life-Pt. 2: Is the Spirit Pleased or Grieved?

Ephesians 4:25-32

The central theme of Ephesians 4 is the unity and purity of Christ's church. Through Christ, God has reconciled us to himself, and he has reconciled us to one another as "one new man". By grace he has redeemed and adopted us as his beloved children, making us members of his family. Once we were lost and separated from God. But we are not who we once were. We are different people who have been called to live differently. Our new identity as God's people involves new standards, a new way of life that is radically different than the old way of living. To "*walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called*" (4:1) is to live according to God's character, according to "*the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*" (4:24)

As we wrap up chapter 4, we see that putting off the old man gets down to the nitty gritty of everyday life and relationships. Our pursuit of holiness is practical and it's personal: don't lie - tell the truth; don't lose control of your anger; don't steal - instead work hard; don't badmouth others - instead be upright and kind in our speech; don't be unkind and bitter - instead be kind and loving. This is what it means to "put on the new self". This is what it looks like to imitate God as his beloved children and to "walk in love". (5:1-2)

Our pursuit of holiness is not some mystical experience between us and God done in the privacy of our prayer closet. We are called to this new life together within the church - as living parts of a living body, as brothers and sisters in a family. Every behavior mentioned here helps or hinders our relationship with each other within our church family. Today we see that these behaviors impact our relationship with someone we can't see - yet someone with whom every genuine believer has an intimate relationship. Scripture commands us, "*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*" (4:30)

The third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, indwells every genuine believer. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal presence or force, but rather is a Person who can be delighted or grieved by our actions.

The Holy Spirit: His presence and work in our lives

The Holy Spirit is pleased or grieved with our truthfulness. (4:25)

The Holy Spirit is pleased or grieved with our anger. (4:26-27)

The Holy Spirit is pleased or grieved with our work ethic. (4:28)

The Holy Spirit is pleased or grieved with our words. (4: 29)

The Holy Spirit is pleased or grieved with our attitudes. (4:31-32)

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

A good challenging question I have heard goes, "What is true of your life that is only true because of the reality of Jesus' resurrection and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?" How can we know the difference between our own strength and the supernatural strength provided by the Spirit?

Do you have a sense from time to time of the pleasure or the displeasure of the Holy Spirit at some course of action that you are taking?

How might we go about evaluating to see if there be any way in us that grieves the Spirit? How should we do this both individually and with other brothers or sisters?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

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