



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Do Not Grieve the Spirit

AUGUST 24, 2011

Tom McCullough/PO Box 503, Granville, Ohio 43023/tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org /www.capitolcom.org/ohio

The setting is a Roman prison (60-62 A.D.) and Paul is addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Ephesus where he was a pastor for several years. In this letter, Paul counters the false teachings that had started to plague the church and additionally provides encouragement and instruction in sound doctrine. While the first three chapters deal with doctrine, the church and the spiritual blessings in Christ, in the last three chapters Paul describes responsibilities of the Christian life. In the fourth chapter of Ephesians, Paul begins to describe how Christians should live after laying aside our old selves, becoming renewed in the spirit of our minds and putting on new selves by being truthful, edifying, kind, forgiving and gracious. (Ephesians 4:25-32)

*Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. (4:25-27) NASB***

Speak the truth. Paul again returns to his prior comment that believers are not to walk as they (Gentiles) once walked. Believers are not to lie but to speak the truth in all their interactions whether inside or outside the fellowship of the church. Additionally, believers are told to be angry but do not sin. There is anger that is not sinful. (Mk. 3:5) We are to be angry with sin and sinful conditions yet we are not to dwell at length on the sin or sin condition otherwise it will create an opportunity for the believer to sin. It's been said that the believer is to hate the sin and love the sinner; however, if the believer dwells long on the sin condition they may begin to hate the sinner and may become apathetic to the sin.

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.(4:28-29)

Do not steal. Man by his sinful nature is a thief and a liar. Paul reminds the believer that they are to work, be productive, to give and not to be selfish. *'The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.'* (Ps. 24:1). Believers are not to use foul or unproductive language, but are to use words that are productive and edifying for the situation or condition. If you start out by saying, 'I probably shouldn't say this ...' you probably shouldn't. The believer's words are to be truthful, edifying and gracious.

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. (4:30-32)

Do not grieve the Spirit. When a believer lies, it grieves the Holy Spirit. When a believer steals, it grieves the Holy Spirit. When a believer has unclean thoughts or uses foul words, it grieves the Holy Spirit. When a believer sins, the sin breaks the fellowship with the Holy Spirit yet does not sever our condition in the Holy Spirit. Believers have been sealed (1:13-14) by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption, we are His. While a believer may grieve the Holy Spirit, they cannot unseal His work in them. Believers are to be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving. Believers are not to be forgiving in order to get forgiveness. Believers are to be forgiving, because they have been forgiven. Forgiveness is based upon the grace of God.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you speak the truth and attempt to edify the situation with your language?
- Do you find that you hate the sinner and not the sin?
- Are you forgiving of others?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44