

Do Not Grieve The Holy Spirit Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Ephesians 4:17-24 - Be Like God – The Character of God (righteousness and holiness)

Motivations to avoid negative behavior and encourage positive behavior.

- I. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. V.30 (Ex. Do not disappoint your parents.)
- II. We are all members of one body, therefore do not lie and speak truth. V. 25
Why do people lie? Self-promotion or self-preservation
- III. Do not give the Devil a foothold in your anger. V26-27
- IV. Share with those in Need, therefore, be productive and do not steal V28
Stealing is based on taking care of our desires
- V. Be a benefit to others, therefore Build others up and do not destroy relationships through your words. V29
- VI. Because you were forgiven, do not destroy relationships through your attitudes with others, but be kind and compassionate, and forgiving to others. V31-32
 - a) Some forget that they were forgiven by God.
 - b) Others have never forgiven themselves
 - c) Some see Forgiveness as a weakness. Only the strong are able to forgive.
- VII. Because you are loved By God and because Christ Sacrificed for you, follow God's example. (Imitators for God) 5:1-2

Action Items:

1. Focus on God – Make sure all your motivations are underneath this main focus.
2. Reject self-centeredness
3. Activate your Positive Actions

Questions to Consider

What are your big picture motivations in life?

What are some reasons for a person to lie about others or themselves?

What are some of the reasons for a person to steal?

Do you believe that Anger can be wrong even though it appears that nobody got hurt? What are some consequences of anger?

How has unwholesome talk changed in the culture over your lifetime?

How have you changed throughout your years to express positive actions and attitudes vs destructive actions?

What are areas in your life that you need to continue to grow as you overcome negative habits?