

## PUT ON THE NEW MAN, Part 2

**TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:22-32**

**Introduction:**

1. The “old man” (4:22) is our old Adamic nature – corrupt and unclean.
2. The “new man” (4:24) is our new nature, which we received when we received Christ.
3. We inherited Adam’s fallen nature by natural birth, and Christ’s perfect nature when we were born again.

**I. GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT (4:30-32).**

1. If we take Ephesians 4:30 in its immediate context, it means that worthless talk grieves the Holy Spirit.
2. Certainly inappropriate speech is part of our old nature and should be carefully avoided (cf. 4:29).
3. This is the immediate context. Let’s go back a few more verses. Lying, excessive anger, and stealing certainly grieve the Holy Spirit (4:24-30).
4. What else grieves the Holy Spirit?
  - Skipping church.
  - Not being faithful with tithes and offerings.
  - Not reading the Bible.
  - Not soulwinning.
  - Not praying.
5. Why is the Holy Spirit grieved?
  - He is “the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, anything that is unholy grieves Him.
  - He is “the Holy Spirit of God” – a member of the Trinity. We need to remember that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, not a mere influence. One of the marks of a cult is that they deny the personality of the Holy Spirit.
  - We are “sealed unto the day of redemption.” A seal speaks of worship and security. The Holy Spirit is the seal that guarantees our preservation until Christ returns for us.
  - Interestingly, people who are opposed to the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer claim that it gives the Christian a license to sin. But here Paul uses

the doctrine of eternal security as a strong reason why we should not sin.

- So rather than eternal security being a license to sin, to the contrary the true believer does not want to grieve the Holy Spirit.

## II. HOW CAN WE GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. Paul lists several specific sins (4:31):

- “Bitterness” – resentment, unwillingness to forgive, holding a grudge, etc. I heard a pastor tell a story about a Christian lady who admitted she “hated” another person.
- “Wrath” – the wrath of God is good and necessary, but the wrath of man is not good and is not necessary.
- “Anger” – hostility. Lewis Sperry Chafer was praying with H.A. Ironside one time and was surprised to hear Ironside pray, “Lord, help me not to be a grouchy old man.” Dr. Chafer was surprised because Dr. Ironside was such a gracious gentleman. But we all have to watch out for this.
- “Clamor” – angry bickering, shouting at people.
- “Evil speaking” – slander, abusive speech.
- “Malice” – wishing evil on others, meanness. The great 19<sup>th</sup> century evangelist, Sam Jones, traveled all over America preaching a sermon called “Quit Your Meanness.” Harry Ironside wrote this: “Anger cherished becomes malice, and Satan works through a malicious spirit.”

2. Someone said Eph. 4:31 describes “natural vices,” whereas 4:32 describes “supernatural virtues.” We need to replace the sins of 4:31 with the Christ-like qualities of 4:32.

- “Kindness” – an unselfish concern for the welfare of others, Christian courtesy.
- “Tenderhearted” – a compassionate interest in others, a willingness to bear their burdens.
- “Forgiveness” – a readiness to pardon offenses, to overlook personal wrongs against oneself, and to harbor no desire for retaliation. One night I was preaching along these lines and I pointed out how I

did not like that bumper-sticker, “I DON’T GET MAD – I GET EVEN!” A man sitting up front smiled sheepishly and admitted that he had that sticker on his car. God wants us to minimize the faults of others, not to maximize them.

### **III. WE ARE TO WALK IN LOVE (5:1, 2)**

1. We have noted the emphasis in the book of Ephesians on the Christian’s new walk (2:10; 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15).
2. Our walk is to be a clean and pure walk (5:3).
3. It should be a walk marked by thankfulness to God (5:4, 20).
4. We should walk as children of light (5:8).
5. We should walk circumspectly (5:15-17).

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God has forgiven us. We should be very grateful (cf. Eph. 4:32b).
2. And thankful (5:4b, 20).
3. I am glad we have a day (Thanksgiving) set apart to give thanks to God, but Christians ought to be thankful all the time.
4. First Thessalonians 5:18 says, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”