

The Word that Involves both *Love and Hate*

Ephesians 4:22-32



“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (*Eph. 4:30*). There are two key words in this verse. First, we have the word “**holy**.” May we never forget that the One who indwells us is the **Holy** Spirit. The Holy God lives within us, and He is completely set apart from all that is sinful or defiled. The Holy God within us hates sin! Just as a surgeon will not use a surgical instrument that is filthy and contaminated, so also the Holy Spirit will not fill or control a person who is defiled by sin. The second key word in this verse is the word “**grieve**.” This word is both a love word and a hate word.

As an example of this, consider a policeman who works in the narcotics division of his department. He has seen the great harm that illegal drugs have done to countless people, and he hates the way these drugs have ruined so many lives. As a result, he has devoted his life to educating young people, seeking to prevent them from going down this harmful road. One day, to his horror, he discovers that his own son is hooked on drugs. His reaction is that of deep **grief**. He hates the drugs and their harmful effects, but he is grieved when his own beloved son is found to be involved with them.

When someone you love does something you hate, you are **grieved** (pained, made sorrowful). So it is with God the Holy Spirit.

He dearly loves the believer, but when the believer does that which He hates, He is grieved. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit, and He refuses to use an unclean vessel.

Thank God that provision has been made for the believer’s full cleansing (*1 John 1:9; John 13:5-11*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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