

Ephesians 4:30

And **do not grieve** the **Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

God the Holy Spirit:

- **At the House or IN the House?**
- **Come over**
- **Take over**

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be **imitators of God**, as beloved children. ² And **walk in love**, as **Christ loved us** and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Life Long vocation of a Jesus-follower:

Quit trying to live your life ... → Let Christ through His Spirit **live through you**.

Ephesians 4:17-20a

Now this I say and **testify in the Lord**, that you must **no longer walk** as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their minds**. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their **understanding**, alienated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their **hardness** of heart. ¹⁹ They have become **callous** and have given themselves up to **sensuality**, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is **not** the way you **learned Christ**!—

- **Thinking is one of our primary and most basic freedoms**
- **A follower of Jesus can still think like a non-Christian**

1) **Resolve** to win the battle for our **thoughts**.

Just because I think something does not make it true or right ... or of Christ!

Ephesians 4:20-21

But that is not the way you **learned Christ**!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were **taught in him**, as the truth is in Jesus

Thought Categories:

- a) In **agreement** with the **nature** of God (= Christ) and with **truth** (= Word).
- b) Our **opinions and preferences** ... often held as convictions
- c) **Suggestions & speculations**, often satanic

2 Corinthians 10:5

We destroy **arguments and every lofty opinion** raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

Ephesians 4:21-24

... you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your **former** manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the **spirit of your minds**, ²⁴ and **to put on the new self**, created after the **likeness of God** in **true** righteousness and holiness.

2) **Determine—no matter how you feel—to put on the new self** (= Christ-like).

a) Discern **dangerous** thoughts

- I) Pride and **overconfidence** in my **ideas & notions** ... simply because they are *mine*
- II) Ignorance of God's **ways (~His opinion) and His character**
- III) Letting unsundered **feeling & emotion** be in the **driver seat**
 - a. Sensual: fun, pleasing, entertaining
 - b. Self-righteous: the desire to prove we are right
- IV) Passively admitting **ideas & images** into our mind
- V) Any **minimization or excusing of sin**

b) Develop deep **distrust of self**

c) Don't **draw lines or set limits** for the Holy Spirit

John 5:19 (JB Ph)

Jesus said to them, "I assure you that the Son can **do nothing of his own accord**, but only what he **sees the Father doing**. What the Son does is always **modelled** on what the Father does ...

Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, having **put away falsehood**, let each one of you **speak the truth** with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

5 House Rules for the Holy Spirit

1) Traffic only **in truth**.

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

2) Move on from anger.

Enthroned anger gives the enemy a seat at the table!

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

3) Move from being a taker to a giver

Types of Givers:

- Reluctant
- Occasional
- Consistent → Percentage
- Sacrificial

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

4) Speak only what gives grace.

Ephesians 4:30-32, 5:1a

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

5) Put away (internally and externally) negativity & toxicity from the church community → Be Christ to one another.

Doers of the Word:

- 1) *When was the last time, you challenged your “line of thinking” and/or changed your mind about something substantial ...?*

Doers of the Word:

- 2) *Are you familiar enough with Christ in Scripture and personally to actually know how He would act/re-act in your own life circumstances?*

Doers of the Word:

- 3) *End of the Day Examination: Review the House Rules of the Holy Spirit:***
 - a. Praise God for empowering grace and progress in Christ***
 - b. Repent, Reboot and Restart***