

PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 2 – Issue 10 – 21 December 2008

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

It's simply a plain fact that one characteristic applied to the Holy Spirit in scripture is that of personality. Let's revisit some familiar passages for corroboration:

- “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:17).
- “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).
- “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13).

Thus, understanding the Holy Spirit has personage, we also must understand that we can grieve Him. **Eph. 4:30**, in reference to the Holy Spirit, reads: “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*”

The word “grieve” is translated from the Greek word, λυπέω (lupéō) which means: to cause sorrow; to bring inward pain to someone; to sadden; to disappoint (cf. **Mk. 10:17-22**, especially **vs. 22**). How sad it is that we can vex Deity.

How then do we grieve the Holy Spirit? We need not speculate. The surrounding context of **Eph. 4:30** answers the query.

- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we are not humble, meek, longsuffering and forbearing with one another (**4:1-2**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we bring unwarranted division to the body of Christ (**4:3**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we are tossed to and fro by error; being deceived by vain words (**4:14; 5:6**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we compromise the truth (**4:15**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we fail to grow up; i.e. become mature in the faith (**4:15**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not do our part to contribute to the edification of the body of Christ (**4:16**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we fail to be renewed in our minds and be holy (**4:21-23**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we tell lies (**4:25**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we steal (**4:28**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we are stingy and do not extend benevolence (**4:28**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we use corrupt speech and loose lips (**4:29; 5:4**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we are bitter and mean spirited (**4:31**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we will not forgive the penitent (**4:32**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we fornicate (**5:3**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we are covetous (**5:3**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not prove what is acceptable to the Lord (**5:10, 17**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not make the most of the opportunities we are presented with (**5:15-16**).
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not honor our proper roles (**5:22-24**).

This is just a partial list. Get into the text and dig out some other painful points. Are you guilty of grieving Deity?