

Forgive and Live

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 4:30-32.
- B. Being a Christian makes a definite difference in your life.

II. Christianity is not simply about stopping certain things.

- A. The problem is that Christians have not learned how to go on and put on Christ.
- B. We put on Christ in the speaking of truth and love towards one another.
- C. We are to seek the restoration of a relationship with one whom we have offended or has offended us—a positive action.

III. Not only actions must be changed—attitudes must be changed as well.

- A. The key to all human behavior lies in his relationship to God.
- B. One's vertical relationship with God will be reflected in his relationship with others—one must start with God.
- C. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Grief is always an indication of the presence of love—God loves us.
 - 2. Christians are not to grieve the Spirit of God because they are sealed for the day of redemption meaning that the Christian is secure.
 - a. If you do not have the Spirit of God, you are not of God. (Romans 8)
 - b. The Spirit takes up residence permanently, so He grieves at disobedience but does not leave.
 - 3. With disobedience, we must live with a grieved Spirit.
 - a. There is conflict within us—a restlessness.
 - b. The Christian should not have to force himself to do something.
 - 4. What He asks us to do, He will energize to accomplish—not having this power hints at something wrong.
 - 5. What grieves the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Bitterness.

- b. Wrath.
- c. Clamor.
- d. Slander.
- e. Malice.
- f. These things are there and they are often there in the Christian life.

6. We are to put on kindness and tender-heartedness instead.

7. We have to start with our attitudes as the source of the problem and put them away.

8. We must forgive us.

- a. God forgave us.
- b. God forgave us despite the cost to Him.
- c. God forgives us completely.

Application questions:

1. Why does the Holy Spirit not leave the Christian when he is disobedient? What is His reaction instead?

2. What do the things that grieve the Spirit have in common? Explain.

3. What resentments are you harboring to others? Where does the problem lie? How can you respond appropriately in light of the message?
