

49.3 Grieving God

Greetings Patriots! This is Perry Greene with GNA. We have talked about how to deal with our grief over the past few Wednesdays. Today I want to talk about our “*Grieving God*.”

Ephesians 4:25-32 (NKJV):

²⁵Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another. ²⁶“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place [“*opportunity*”] to the devil. ²⁸Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification [“*building up*”], that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor [“*loud quarreling*”], and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Have you ever thought about the power we have towards God? At first blush, we think we are powerless before Him. In many ways, that is true. He is Creator, and we are the created. How much power can the creature have over the Creator?

We have some significant power. We can grieve God by the way we live. Can you imagine that for just a moment? WE cause grief to God because of our conduct! We can grieve Him in our words, actions, and attitudes.

We live in an age of misinformation and disinformation. "Misinformation" is the unintentional spread of falsehood. "Disinformation" is the intentional spread of untruths.

The current regime is so worried about our learning truth that our leaders, like other dictatorial administrations, have established a "Disinformation Governance Board" or a "Ministry of Truth". In actuality, this is a censorship platform. Do you think God grieves to see the spread of lies and the withholding of truth?

We need guidelines from God. We might think we are wise enough or mature enough to go along in life, but we need more. We need specific instructions.

God gave the Hebrews the Ten Commandments and then additional commands because they needed instruction on living before Him. Life before God is more than worship services. The 613 commands God gave the Hebrews affected their worship, national governance, families, and personal lives.

We are no different today. We forget that God is watching our lives outside of our worship assemblies. He cares about our worship, but He cares about our lifestyles too.

Having a biblical worldview means that we incorporate the word of God into every aspect of life. God cares if we worship in "spirit and truth" in our worship times. He also cares if we "walk in the light" daily in every aspect of life.

Look again at our opening text. Notice the specific things Paul describes for us. When we fail to accentuate these traits, we grieve God by how we live. God puts a high value on honesty in this text as well as some practical actions of integrity. We are to remove things like bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor [“*loud quarreling*”], evil speaking, and malice.

Then on the positive side, we are to practice kindness to one another. We are to be tenderhearted, and forgive one another, as God in Christ forgave us. Otherwise, we grieve God's Spirit.

We may say whatever we want about the Founders and Framers of America. They are not here to defend themselves, and we weren't there to know precisely how they conducted their lives. However, it seems evident that God did not bless America because our Founders and Framers established a secular "*do as you please*" society. Instead, God blessed America because the leaders and people generally devoted themselves to God.

Our forefathers and mothers were imperfect as we are. The difference is that they were more faithful to God. Generally, in America today, we typically go our own way. Occasionally we work God into our schedules when convenient and does not require sacrifice. We are a stark contrast to our forefathers and mothers with this attitude. Do you think reducing God to an afterthought might grieve Him?

George Washington was concerned about the conduct of the Continental Army, especially in the use of profane language. Washington believed the Army's conduct and language would impact the war efforts. Remember, Washington believed that God was watching over us and working with us. On August 3, 1776, Commanding General, George Washington issued the following General Orders to his officers from his headquarters in New York.

The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing, a vice hitherto little known in our American Army is growing into fashion. He hopes that the officers will, by example as well as influence, endeavor to check it and that both they and the men will reflect that we can little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our army if we insult it by our impiety and folly. Added to this it is a vice so mean and low without any temptation that every man of sense and character detests and despises it.¹

How do you think such an order would go over today in our military? No doubt such an order would be resisted by our armed forces. Our civilian society would even resist such a thought today. So many people use profanity! Even our youngsters use offensive language and think nothing of it. Could we grieve God by our language as well as our attitudes and actions? In **Matthew 12:37** (NKJV) Jesus said:

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned.

When I think of my sins, I tend to see God getting angry with me over those sins. Perhaps He does. However, God abounds in steadfast love. He is anxious to forgive my sins based on the work of Jesus on the cross. If I view my sins as grieving God, I have a different perception. Rather than anger, there is hurt and disappointment on the part of God. When I think of my sin upsetting God, I hurt to know that I am hurting and grieving Him by my words and deeds.

God loves us right where we are in life. He will accept any penitent believer into His family. Let's not lose sight that He also wants us to improve our character on our journey with Him. He wants us to become more and more like His Son. We can choose to grieve Him or please Him by how we act and what we say.

Keep The Light of *Pleasing God* Burning!

¹ Stokes, Alan. "163 Moments of Politics as Usual." *"In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress"*, Pol Light, 2 Nov. 2012, pollight.blogspot.com/2012/11/george-washingtons-order-against.html.