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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30-32

This morning, we step again into the infinite mystery of our Christian faith... we once again present our minds to the Scriptures and find that they stretch us beyond anything we can naturally comprehend. This morning, we are going to ponder the astonishing mystery of the indwelling Holy Spirit... of the Third Person of the Trinity, who dwells within each Christian.

We are going to ponder this mystery in the context of Christian ethics... of the Christian lifestyle, of Christian morality, of Christian behavior.

We are going to learn how understanding the personality of the Holy Spirit is essential to our sanctification, to our growth in Christ.

I. The Indwelling Holy Spirit

A. Understanding the Flow of the Chapter

1. Ephesians 1-3: Theology of Christian Salvation...
2. Ephesians 4-6: Theology of Christian Living

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

3. Basic rhythm of sanctification: Ephesians 4:17-24
 - a. Don't live as the Gentiles used to:
 - b. Be transformed in your minds to think a new way
 - c. Live a new life in the power of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- d. Change of thinking: Put off the old, put on the new

4. A Series of practical moral issues

a. Issue #1: Lying

i) Put off the old... ALL LYING and FALSEHOOD

ii) Put on the new... SPEAK TRUTHFULLY to each other... knowing we are all members of the Body of Christ

b. Issue #2: Anger

i) Put off the old... all evil anger, all sinful anger... DON'T GIVE THE DEVIL A FOOTHOLD

ii) [In a moment, he'll tell us the new]

c. Issue #3: Stealing

i) Put off the old... stealing

ii) Put on the new... hard work resulting in extra which you can share with the needy

d. Issue #4: Evil speech

i) Put off the old... all unwholesome talk... DO NOT LET ANYTHING COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH that is corrupt

ii) Put on the new... SPEAK ONLY WHAT IS HELPFUL for building others up, according to their needs, that it may benefit those who hear

5. In the middle of this flow... this verse on the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

6. Then... more moral issues:

a. Sexual immorality

b. Greed

Ephesians 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

c. Obscene talk

Ephesians 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

- B. Verse 30: Kind of a Center: BOTH the Culmination AND the Preface to What Comes!
1. The Presence, Personality and Power of the Holy Spirit is the Centerpiece of the Holy Christian Life
 2. Culmination:

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

3. Only by understanding and yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit will we live the Christian life
4. It is the PERSON of the HOLY SPIRIT that makes Christian ethics and morality Christian... particularly Christian
 - a. Many religious and moral people reject the sins exposed here
 - b. They are moral people, never lying or cheating or stealing or being sexually immoral
 - c. They work hard and give to the poor; they have loving marriages and family life
 - d. They are kind, patient, generous, and gentle
 - e. BUT their morality has nothing to do with Christ, and it is not by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - f. The concept of the PERSON of the Holy Spirit... His presence, His power, His emotions, His desires, His leading and wisdom... that makes Christian morality of a radically different type than any other in the world

C. The Person of the Holy Spirit

1. This verse is one of the clearest in the Bible on the PERSONALITY... the PERSONHOOD of the Holy Spirit
2. The verse commands us not to GRIEVE the Holy Spirit of God
 - a. Grief is a highly emotional reaction to a great tragedy
 - b. It is directly connected to a PERSON... to that PERSON'S feeling and reactions

- c. It implies that we Christians are in a relationship with a person whose feelings can be hurt deeply by our actions and thoughts

3. Hard to understand the TRINITY

- a. We Christians believe in ONE GOD, eternally existing in THREE PERSONS... the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- b. This is an infinitely mysterious doctrine... it soars far beyond our ability to comprehend it
- c. Belief in ONE GOD is not hard to comprehend... Judaism and Islam are monotheistic
- d. belief in THREE GODS is not hard to comprehend... many religions are polytheistic
- e. but we Christians hold to ONE GOD in THREE PERSONS
- f. the battle has been fought especially on two fronts
 - i) the deity of Jesus Christ
 - ii) the personality of the Holy Spirit

4. What is the right way to ask the question? "WHO or WHAT is the Spirit?"

- a. Is the Spirit an impersonal force, unifying all living beings... some capacity, some power that flows mindlessly like electricity or the wind
- b. You "tap into" that power, that source, and you are energized in some mindless impersonal way

Illus. In 1977, like much of America, I went to see the ground-breaking movie "Star Wars" ... I never imagined that 39 years later, I would see the ninth Star Wars movie!! Anyway... one of the most famous lines in that original movie was this one: "Use THE FORCE, Luke" ...

What is "the force"?

According to Obi-wan Kenobi "The force is what gives a Jedi his power. It is an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the universe together."

Yoda, when training Luke said "My ally is the Force, and a powerful ally it is. Life creates it, makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us."

In that polytheistic worldview, the Force is IMPERSONAL... it is an IT... you learn ITS nature and attributes and tap into it to do amazing things.

5. The Holy Spirit is not an IT... He is a person... and Ephesians 4:30 proves it... He is can be GRIEVED
6. This is what makes sanctification so powerful,, we are commanded to be holy for HIS SAKE... not for ourselves alone, because it is a better, cleaner, more fruitful, more efficient life

Benjamin Franklin: "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

The benefits of simple morality...

That is not how the bible teaches holiness, sanctification, Christian growth

It's about an intensely powerful and personal relationship with the indwelling Holy Spirit

D. The Word Order

1. The text literally says:

"Grieve not the Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God"

As if to say, "Do not grieve the Spirit, even the holy One of God in whom you have been sealed ..."

E. The Sealing of the Holy Spirit

... the Spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption

1. This "sealing" of the Spirit was already mentioned

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

The SEALING is a mark of ownership... as though by this, God claims you as His own; it is also a mark of authentication, by which every person can know that he is truly a Christian, and truly destined for heaven... like a letter written by a King was SEALED with wax and his unique signet ring

The sealing of the Spirit is his powerful testimony directly to our hearts that we are children of God

Romans 8:15-16 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

He does this by ministering intimate knowledge of the infinite dimensions of Christ's love for us DIRECTLY TO OUR HEARTS:

Ephesians 3:16-17 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

The Spirit ministers Christ immediately to our hearts... he brings the work of Christ from a distant time and a distant place right home to our hearts... he applies the infinite worth and power of the blood of Christ to individual people all around the world...

Ephesians 3:17-19 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

You thought Christ's death on the cross was a historical fact, remote, irrelevant, perhaps it never happened at all... in any case, it didn't matter to you. Then suddenly, the eyes of your heart were opened and you saw Christ crucified FOR YOU PERSONALLY. You were convicted of sin, you felt the terror of condemnation, then the release of joy in knowing you, even you were invited to the banquet... that Christ had died for you PERSONALLY:

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

How did this happen? How did Christ become your PERSONAL Savior? How did you come to realize he loved YOU and gave himself for YOU?

That, dear friends, was the awesome, quiet, hidden, sovereign work of the Holy Spirit of God. He moved out, came right to you, healed your heart by his secret power, and gave you spiritual sight. He caused you to be BORN AGAIN... born of the Spirit, born from above.

At that moment, he invisibly and powerfully came to DWELL WITHIN YOU forever

You were : *Sealed for the day of redemption.*

2. Doctrine of the indwelling Holy Spirit

- a. The person and work of the Holy Spirit is taught throughout the Bible

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- b. Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit of God comes powerfully upon certain key individuals, enabling them to do amazing things

The same Spirit that came on Moses and enabled him to lead Israel is now living within every Christian

The same Spirit that enabled the Old Testament prophets to look far into the future and makes astounding predictions about the coming of Christ is now living within every Christian

The same Spirit that came powerfully upon Samson and enabled him to tear apart a young lion with his bare hands is now living inside us

The same Spirit that came upon Saul and David as kings of Israel is now within our hearts

3. The promise of the Holy Spirit has been made to all who believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ

Acts 2:37-39 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call."

4. This is the promise made by the Lord Jesus Christ

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

IN YOU FOREVER!!

This indwelling Spirit is the mark of salvation

Every person who genuinely repents and trusts Christ for the forgiveness of his/her sins is adopted into the family of God and is SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

5. This indwelling Spirit is given to EVERY TRUE CHILD OF GOD

Romans 8:9 if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

F. What Does it Mean that we were “Sealed until the Day of Redemption”?

1. Redemption = to be redeemed... BOUGHT WITH A PRICE
 - a. We were slaves to sin
 - b. Christ paid the price of his precious blood to redeem us from sin
 - c. The fullness of our redemption = the total salvation plan of God... bought entirely out of sin in every way
2. The “day of redemption” is the final day of our salvation
3. The day in which we will be PERFECT in Christ... when we receive our resurrection bodies

Romans 8:23-24 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved.

4. The sealing of the Spirit is TEMPORARY... it goes on UNTIL we are finally saved from the danger of this world
5. The day of redemption also refers to Judgment Day... the day in which we will give an account to Christ for how we have lived

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

SO... this is the indwelling Holy Spirit... the one who has SEALED US as Christ’s purchased possession, continually reminding

G. Deep Gratefulness to the Holy Spirit!!

1. We will spend eternity worshiping the Triune God... Father, Son, and Spirit
2. We will spend eternity particularly thanking each Person of the Trinity for their specific offices to us
 - a. We know the Father chose us and sent His Son for us
 - b. We know the Son died for us, giving His lifeblood for our salvation
 - c. But what specifically has the Spirit done for us?
 - i) Plainly, the work of the Father and of the Son would have meant NOTHING to you whatsoever if not for the tender, loving, powerful Holy Spirit
 - ii) You would have continued in your sins for the rest of your life... you would have lived a life of rebellion, caring nothing for Jesus at all
 - iii) But the Spirit moved toward you personally... he raised you from the dead spiritually... he opened your blind spiritual eyes and gave you faith... he counteracted everything Satan had done in your heart... he BROUGHT CHRIST'S BLOOD to you personally and applied it to your soul... he made you love Jesus and trust Jesus and follow Jesus and worship Jesus
 - iv) He has been loving you and tenderly working in you every day of your life, but especially once He caused you to be born again
 - v) You OWE HIM EVERYTHING! You ought to love Him and tell Him thank you every day of your life that you are not as the millions around us all over the world who care nothing for Christ

II. Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- A. So What Does It Mean to “Grieve” the Holy Spirit?
 1. The word “grief” is a powerful one
 2. It implies deep sorrow... like burying one of your children... the wailing, the sorrow encompassing the hearts of the parents... wave upon wave of emotion, of a blanket of sadness at a great tragedy
 3. This word shows the PERSONALITY of the Holy Spirit...

4. He is not an abstract force... he is not electricity, or impersonal power like the inanimate wind...mindless, impersonal
5. NO... he has emotions in the context of a relationship
6. So... what grieves the Holy Spirit of God?
7. In a word, SIN

B. The “Holy” Spirit

1. This is the most common title for the third person of the Trinity

1 Peter 1:15-16 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

2. It points powerfully to perfect purity; he is light, and he hates all darkness

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

3. All sin grieves the Holy Spirit... it is very personal for him, very painful for him, a sense of personal betrayal
4. What specifically grieves him?
 - a. The rupture of the unity of the Spirit through selfishness... when through pride we refuse to consider others ahead of ourselves
 - b. The “acts of the flesh” listed in Galatians 5 grieve the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- c. Corrupt and wicked speech grieves the Holy Spirit
- d. Impure thoughts grieve the Holy Spirit...
 - i) Thoughts of anger and unforgiveness toward others
 - ii) Lust thoughts and covetous thoughts
 - iii) Having a worldly mind that craves the pleasures of this world more than fellowship with him

e. Failing to follow him into battle with the acts of the flesh

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

f. Failing to listen to the still small voice he uses prompting us to be holy

C. The Spirit is a Dove and a Wind... and a Fire

1. At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove on Jesus and remained on him

a. The dove is a tender, gentle, pure bird... a picture of peace and tranquility

b. The Spirit is not pictured as a bird of prey... a mighty eagle, or a soaring hawk or a diving falcon swooping down on its prey

c. The gentleness of the Spirit is there established

2. At Pentecost, two other images are given us: a wind and a fire

a. The wind sounded like a HURRICANE... a mighty rushing wind, powerful, but invisible... the sound of the mighty wind was so powerful that it attracted the crowd that the Apostles were about to preach to

b. But in Elijah's encounter with God on Mount Horeb, God was not in the mighty wind that tore the mountains apart and smashed the rocks; nor was he in the earthquake that shook the ground beneath his feet; nor was God in the raging fire that appeared before him... but in a "STILL SMALL VOICE"... a gentle WHISPER, barely audible...

1 Kings 19:13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

c. This is again a picture of the astonishing GENTLENESS of the Spirit... but also the range of the Spirit... from a tiny, gentle quiet whisper all the way up to a raging hurricane

d. Pentecost also portrayed the Spirit as a FIRE... but not as a raging forest fire that sweeps through seven states in the Rockies destroying millions of acres of old growth forest but rather of small TONGUES of FIRE that separated and came to rest on each of the believers, enabling them to speak the word of God

III. Grieving When the Spirit is Grieved

A. If the Spirit is Grieved, So Should We Be

1. The moment we sin, the Spirit is immediately grieved
2. But we may take a little longer to come to that state
3. We may be enjoying the pleasures of sin for a short time... unconcerned, unaware of how displeased the gentle Spirit is

B. It is the Work of the Spirit to Cause Us to Grieve With Him

1. At the right time, the Spirit first convicts us of the sin
2. We are made smartingly aware of what we have done
3. We see the depths of the sin, the dimensions of it
4. And we are brought to an awareness of how SAD this sin has made the Spirit
5. And the healthiest thing we can do is GRIEVE!!

Matthew 26:75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

C. Godly Sorrow is Part of Repentance

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.

1. Thomas Watson's six elements of repentance

Sight of sin ... Sorrow for sin ... Confession of sin ... Shame for sin ...
Hatred for sin ... Turning from sin

- a. Part of genuine repentance is SORROW for sin... to grieve over it as the Spirit does
- b. The means to intentionally EMBITTER your soul over the sin... to preach to yourself as Nathan the prophet did, saying "You are the man!!"

Watson: This sorrow for sin is not superficial: it is a holy agony. It is called in Scripture, a breaking of the heart: “The sacrifices of God are a broken and a contrite heart” (Psa 51.17); and a rending of the heart: “Rend your heart” (Joe 2.13). The expressions of striking on the thigh (Jer 31.19), beating on the breast (Luk 18.13), putting on sackcloth (Isa 22.12), plucking the hair (Ezra 9.3), are all but outward signs of inward sorrow.

Watson: “Sin breeds sorrow, and sorrow kills sin.”

2. True sorrow is INWARD, it is SINCERE, it is HEART-SORROW, it is FAITH-FILLED—always looking to Christ as Savior, knowing that His blood is sufficient
3. By our sorrow, we are
4. Clearest passage on this... James 4
 - a. James speaks to WORLDLY Christians who have gone after the lusts of this world
 - b. He calls them to understand the jealousy of the Holy Spirit that lives within us... that the Spirit is DEEPLY JEALOUS over our heart affections
 - c. He calls on them to mourn for their sins as He does

James 4:9-10 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

5. Application: TAKE TIME TO PONDER, PRAY, CONFESS, AND GRIEVE!

IV. A Life of Tenderhearted Forgiveness in the Spirit (vs. 31-32)

Ephesians 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

A. The Central Work of the Spirit: Supernatural Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

1. To that end, Paul lists things that deeply grieve the Spirit of God and destroy the unity of the Body
2. Note how Paul follows the same pattern as usual in this chapter

Ephesians 4:22-24 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

PUT OFF THE OLD LIFESTYLE

MADE NEW IN THE MIND

PUT ON THE NEW LIFESTYLE

- a. He clearly describes things that must be GOTTEN RID OF!! The elements of the OLD LIFE that pagans live
- b. Then he describes clearly the elements of the NEW LIFE in Christ that the Spirit works in us instead
- c. He's done this again and again in this chapter:

Ephesians 4:25 *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.*

Ephesians 4:28 *He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.*

Ephesians 4:29 *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

3. So also here... get rids of wicked patterns of anger and unforgiveness that will destroy the body of Christ... and instead PUT ON compassion and forgiveness

B. Get Rid of Defiling Sins that Destroy the Body

1. Bitterness: deep-seated anger, long-term unforgiveness... something happened a long time ago, and you just can't let it go
 - a. Persistent gloomy disposition... grumpiness... sourness... negativity... usually displayed in sharp words and complaints and slander against others
 - b. Unbelievers are bitter by nature, nursing their grievances with bitter memories...
 - c. This GRIEVES the Spirit of God... GET RID OF ALL BITTERNESS!!

2. Rage and anger

- a. Earlier Paul spoke of righteous anger... but commanded not to sin

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry and do not sin.

- b. BUT HERE: the ranger of sinful anger... from normal sinful anger up to overwhelming anger, red face, veins popping

3. Brawling: amazing that Christians would even need to be told this!!

Illus. Western saloon... wild west... half-drunken cowboys and gunslingers throwing tables through windows and smashing chairs over people's heads

- a. Includes raised voices... shouting

- b. How terrifying is this list of sin!! How great a cancer it is, how far it will take us!

4. Slander (evil-speaking): coolly and with calculation saying unkind, vicious, destructive things that assassinate someone's character; Greek word is actually *blasphemy*... speaking evil of someone in the image of God

5. All forms of malice: wicked desires that plot and plan evil toward others... malice is hatred

6. All these things GRIEVE the Holy Spirit and DESTROY the unity and health and happiness of the Body of Christ

C. Put On Godly Demeanor Toward Others... Compassion, Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1. Literally BECOME kind and compassionate to one another

The OLD WAYS have to be pushed out and the NEW WAYS in...

Lloyd-Jones: Like dead winter leaves that spend all winter on the branches of some trees are PUSHED OUT in the spring by new green leaves...

- a. We are not naturally kind, compassionate, and forgiving... this is something the Spirit has to work in us

- b. We have to cultivate these beautiful attributes

2. The BEST WAY is to look to Christ

a. First: how did HE deal with other sinners?

- i) He was TENDER-HEARTED... his heart melted with compassion at their plight, even in sin... how GENTLE he was with fragile sinners

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out

- ii) We can see how miserable a sinner is... even one that has sinned against us and hurt us in some way

b. Secondly: how did Christ DEAL with us in our sin? How loving has he been to us??

Matthew 18:23-27 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

Matthew 18:33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

3. We must be as tenderhearted and forgiving to people who sin against us as Christ was with us... AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU!!

V. Applications

A. This Whole Chapter is Application Directly... So We Don't Have to Do Much More

B. First and Foremost... to all Lost People: Trust in Christ for the forgiveness of your sins

1. We cannot live out these ethics in a way that pleases God if we have not first been forgiven of our sins by faith in Christ!

Ephesians 4:32 forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2. I yearn for you to know the freedom and release that comes from knowing that God has forgiven you in Christ

3. Once you do, you will get to know the quiet, powerful influence of the indwelling Holy Spirit

C. Christians: DO NOT GRIEVE the Holy Spirit of God!

1. Understand that all sin is PERSONAL... feel his personal presence in your life, and feel the personal nature of sin...
2. The most powerful negative influence against sin for a Christian is not fear of punishment, but fear of disappointing the gentle, loving Spirit of God
3. When you sin, learn to grieve as the Holy Spirit does... don't take sin lightly... take the time to be sorrowful so that the sorrow can drive out sin

D. Learn to Forgive From the Heart

1. Is there in you a spirit of bitterness? Is there anyone you are holding captive in your heart to a previous sin they've committed? LET IT GO! Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.
2. Ask God to make you as tenderhearted toward other sinners as Christ has been with you!