

**Small Group  
Preparation and Discussion  
Coram Deo- The Grief of the Spirit**

**Goals of Coram Deo Study**

- ❖ The Coram Deo Study has one main goal—to learn to live with God again. Three sub-goals act as supports. Think of a stool. Living with God is the top of the stool and the three truths below are the legs.
  - Learning about God from His own mouth.
  - Guarding ourselves and other from being ashamed of the gospel.
  - Be proud enough of God to defend Him intelligently in a skeptical culture.

**Preparation**

- ❖ The fifth lesson covers the grief of the Spirit. To prepare for this lesson please do the following:
  - Read the passage
  - Listen to the sermon on our website or SermonAudio while looking at the Bible study outline below. Take notes and figure out how you will guide the group to consider each aspect of the sermon.
  - Review the timeline below and determine how you want to tailor it to your group. The outline follows the order of events in each small group.

**Welcome and Worship [5-10 minutes]**

- ❖ Please review your fellowship manual for extensive details. Worship can be accomplished in many ways. You could read a Psalm. You could simply open with prayer. You could sing a hymn.
- ❖ Use your judgment. What kind of worship best sets the tone to connect people with the presence of God? Invoke Him into your midst.
- ❖ Possible Resources
  - Valley of Vision
  - Hymnal
  - The Psalms

**Bible Study [15-30 minutes]**

Below you will find the outline from the Coram Deo: The Grief of the Spirit sermon with questions. Remember, you are not holding a seminary class. You are seeking to bring attention to a few aspects of the Spirit. The application is included, but don't focus on that yet. The sharing time is the best place to explore the implications.

**Passage:**

*“Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let 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. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:25–32)*

**Coram Deo**

**Ephesians 4:25-32**

**The Grief of the Spirit**

**Introduction:**

Words change over time. The word ‘nice’ meant, ‘silly, or foolish.’ Likewise the word comfort today means, relaxed or soothed. However, before, it consisted of a latin prefix ‘com’ and the latin word forte, strength.

This explains why some translations say that the Holy Spirit is our comforter. He brings strength to His Church. I am certain this is why Jesus in John 16 expected his disciples to be hopeful. I am ascending, but I will send you strength. I will send you the Holy Spirit.

The passage before speaks of the strength of the Spirit for His Church. By revealing His Grief, the Holy Spirit strengthens His Church with gospel motivations.

**Big Idea:**

The Holy Spirit reveals his personal grief to strengthen your gospel motivations.

**Division:**

Person, Cause, Motivation

**(Person)**

The Holy Spirit is personal (V.30)

- I. The Holy Spirit is a person.
  - A. **Understanding:** *“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10)*
  - B. **Will:** *“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:11)*
  - C. **Grief:** Another personal attribute (v.30)
    1. Not Properly, but metaphorically
      - a. Grieving implies an emotional alteration, disappointment, and weakness. Because the Holy Spirit is God and God is immutable, this cannot be properly said about Him.

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- b. However, it may be metaphorically said about Him.
  - c. God accommodates to our experience to communicate to us.
  - d. The Holy Spirit personally grieves.
2. Grief, here, is the sadness that one feels toward someone you love.
- a. *“Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be grieved, but your grief will be turned into joy.”* (John 16:20)
  - b. Jesus is speaking of His crucifixion and perhaps his ascension. The disciples will be grieved at the pain of their friend Jesus and pained at His absence.
  - c. Likewise, the Holy Spirit will be pained at the plight of His friends.
  - d. The Holy Spirit is personally interested in His people.

[What is the cause of His grief?]

### **(Cause)**

The Holy Spirit personally grieves over inattention to holiness (vv.25-29 & 31-32)

- I. This is made clear upon consideration of the picture of ‘sealing’ (v.30,24; 5:1).
  - A. A seal was used to mark a document as official. It consisted on a dollop of wax that was, then, impressed with the insignia of the person or state approving the document.
  - B. He we have the same. Christians like wax have been impressed to be like God in righteousness and holiness (v.24).
  - C. Christians, as dear children are embossed with the image of their Father, whom (Chapter 5:1), Christians are now to imitate.
- II. The impression upon the wax of our souls is, then enumerated.
  - A. Do not bear false witness (v.25).
  - B. Do not murder in your heart on with your mouth (v.26,29).
  - C. Do not steal (v.28).
  - D. Instead, be Like God your Father especially in forgiveness.
- III. Do not neglect the new identity with which you were sealed.

[The Spirit is a person and takes a personal interest in our holiness. He is the one tasked with embossing the righteousness and image of God upon your soul. When we neglect this impression, He is grieved. Considered in light of The Spirit’s general ministry, the real question is, why does the Spirit reveal His personal grief to us?]

### **(Motivation)**

The Holy Spirit reveals his personal grief for your gospel motivation (v.30,32)

- I. The Church often has poor motives because she entertains false thoughts about her God.
  - A. The Church can think of God as a frustrated task master or enemy.
  - B. Let’s read the list again, as if God were your enemy.
    1. Read the List with disdain.
- II. What happens when a disparaging Father raise you?
  - A. What are your motivations as a young man?

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- B. When you have independence how do your motivations change?
- III. However, the ethical lists of the New Testament to the Church are never to be read that way.
  - A. God has taught the Church to read the list as a list from...
    - 1. Father- 1<sup>st</sup>. Person
    - 2. Your Husband- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Person
    - 3. Your Comforter- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Person
  - B. The 3<sup>rd</sup>. Person is strengthening you to remember that it is out of love that he longs for your holiness. Thus, we may return not bitterness or resentment, but love.

### **Conclusion:**

- I. Once upon a time, I saw an argument between a couple. The couple had a nice dinner party which included wine.
  - A. The idea was to be formal and have a nice time.
  - B. The wife had a history of drinking too much and her history continued. By the time the dinner had started, she had drunk all of the wine, so that others could not enjoy it and he had obviously too much to fellowship well with the others.
  - C. The husband was grieved over this decision. He wanted the guests and her to have a nice time.
  - D. So, he confronted her privately. "Did you drink all of the wine?"
  - E. "Yes, and what is your problem?" "What are you my Father?"
  - F. The husband calmly took her hand. "If by that you mean, do Am I trying to hurt you, then No, I am not your Father. I am your husband, and I love you. It simply grieves me that you cannot have all that I wanted for you tonight."
- II. This is the true picture of this passage. The Holy Spirit reveals his personal grief so that you can see the love of the Trinity and be motivated by gospel motivations.
  - 1. Unhealthy fear–NO!
  - 2. Unhealthy shame–NO!
  - 3. Love and warm gratitude for our God that gives us everything in Christ. Yes!

The Holy Spirit reveals his personal grief to strengthen your gospel motivations.

### **Sharing [15-30 Minutes]**

- 1. Have you ever grieved over someone's choices for their life? Were they making bad moral decisions?
- 2. Have you ever gently confronted someone out of love and they became very defensive?
- 3. Why do people become defensive when told about their sin?
- 4. When you hear the law enumerated in Ephesians do you get defensive? Why or why not?
- 5. What is the intonation of the law list in Ephesians?
- 6. Why does the Holy Spirit reveal his personal feelings to you?

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### **Prayer Time [5-10 minutes]**

Remember, all kinds of prayer requests may be taken, but keep a good balance. Make sure the emphasis falls on prayer for discovered needs relative to the grief of the Spirit. Are people defensive toward the Holy Spirit? Pray for them! Are they indifferent about holiness? Pray! Do they want to walk in the Spirit? Pray!

### **Socialize [Up to you]**

This is a time to be intentional in your relationships. God has placed you in a leadership position of some sort. Take it seriously!