

Sermon Discussion Questions

Ephesians: Don't Grieve. Give Grace. – Grant Braaten

7 December 2025

Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:17-32

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20-30 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

This week, Grant continues our sermon series in the book of Ephesians with his message entitled, **Don't Grieve.**

Give Grace. In this part of his letter, Paul confronts the Ephesians and reminds them they have been given a new heart and self and that they are to now walk in them. As Grant unpacks what Paul says, we see that at the center of how we choose to walk is a “heart issue”. Let’s dive in and find out more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked where you needed to seek out reconciliation and unity? What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you? What did you do about it?

2. What is something that stood out to you from Grant’s message this week?

3. At the beginning of his message, Grant gave some tips on how to study the Bible and be a good scholar of the Word. Let’s take a moment and try it out. In verse 17 of our text, Paul talks about contrasts the walk of the Christian versus the walk of the Gentiles. Are there any other places in this chapter where Paul talks about our walk? What about other places in the book of Ephesians? Can you think of or find places in any of Paul’s other letters where he talks about our walk? What about in other parts of the New Testament? What about the Old Testament? And one last question. Do you see any connective tissue with these references to how we are supposed to walk?

4. What do you think about the idea that when the heart is hardened, sensuality is the most natural way for us to walk? (Sensuality – unbridled lust, excess, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence). Most often when we think of sensuality, we think of it within a physical, sexual context. But, based on the definition above, (and from the message) what other examples of sensuality can you think of? How do those reflect a heart that is hardened?

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. What type of lights go on your Christmas tree? (Colored or white? Blinking or solid?)
2. Do you have any ornaments that go on your tree with special significance?
3. What is the funniest thing you ever gave or received as a Christmas gift?

5. Our walk is a choice. The same is true for Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians to "put on the new self" (v. 24). Putting on the new self is an active choice. Why is it important for us to "lay aside the old self" and "put on the new self"?

6. Read verses 25-29. What are three things mentioned here (and in the message) that we understand to be "bad"? Our focus tends to be on not doing the "bad" things, but what we are called into is a relationship with God. How can our focus impact how we live our lives? (One way is internally focused and the other way focuses outside of ourselves).

7. In verse 29 we are encouraged to only speak that which builds up the body (church). Have you ever thought about this and realized that through your words and what you say, God's grace is released to others? Do you think this might have an impact on what you speak? Should it?

APPLICATION

One thing from the message and text is for us to "not grieve the Spirit" (v. 30) Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any area of your life where you might be grieving the Spirit. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into repentance so you can walk according to the new life you've been called into. You might ask members of your group to help pray with you if the Holy Spirit brought anything to mind.

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on, click on the NWC App, the website <https://nwckc.com>, or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Sermon study questions can also be found in all three locations.

Christmas At New Wine, 23 December at 6:00pm and 24 December at 4:00 and 6:00 pm. Oak Park High School, 825 NE 79th Terrace, Kansas City, MO. Join us for a beautiful evening of worship, reflection, and celebration as we honor the birth of Jesus Christ. Invite your friends and family.

Sign up to serve at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAC72AAFAC25-newwine1#/>

FINAL THOUGHT

Renewing your mind is proactive repentance.