

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

The Holy Spirit is not an “it” but a “*He*” (John 14:16-17; 16:13)—a real Person. In fact, He is so much a Person that He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:32; Mark 3:29), lied to (Acts 5:3), tested (Acts 5:9), resisted (Acts 7:51), grieved (Ephesians 4:30), quenched (1Thessalonians 5:19), and insulted (Hebrews 10:29). Scripture also communicates that the Holy Spirit has many responsibilities. He baptizes (Acts 1:5; 1Corinthians 12:13), speaks (Mark 13:11; Acts 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 21:11; 1Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:7; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 14:13; 22:17), fills (Luke 1:15, 41, 67; Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18), teaches (Luke 12:12; 1Corinthians 2:13; Hebrews 9:8; 1John 5:7), gives life (John 6:63; 2Corinthians 3:6), guides (John 16:13), commissions (Acts 13:4; 20:28), reasons (Acts 15:28), restricts (Acts 16:6), testifies (Acts 20:23), circumcises (Romans 2:29), leads (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18), intercedes (Romans 8:26), possesses intellect (Romans 8:27), searches (1Corinthians 2:10), justifies (1Corinthians 6:11), distributes spiritual gifts (1Corinthians 12:11), seals (Ephesians 1:13), reveals (Ephesians 3:5), strengthens (Ephesians 3:16), vindicates (1Timothy 3:16), empowers (1Peter 1:12; 2Peter 1:21), and still finds time to be our wonderful “*Helper*” (John 14:26). He is also the “*Holy Spirit of God*” (Ephesians 4:30), confirming His status as one of the three Persons of the Trinity (the Trinity consisting of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit).

We learned earlier, while studying the principle of the cross, that each of the three Persons of the Trinity never makes a decision to benefit Himself. Each always chooses what will benefit the other two Persons, as well as what will benefit others. The Scriptures just studied bear this out, for the Holy Spirit never serves Himself. No wonder “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,*” and “*self-control*” are evident in those He leads (Galatians 5:22-23).

We “*were sealed for the day of redemption*” (Ephesians 4:30)—the day when our bodies will be glorified (resurrected). This truth agrees with Ephesians 1:13-14, where we discovered that the Holy Spirit sealed us in Christ and serves as God’s irrevocable pledge (down payment and guarantee) that more is to come—the resurrection of the body (1Corinthians 15:42-55). This seal confirms that the transaction has been completed, that God owns us, that we have received His stamp of approval, and that we are secure in Him. What Paul is saying in Ephesians 4:30 is: “If the Holy Spirit did this much for you, how can you possibly act in such a way as to grieve Him?”