

Connect

Speaking of the **children of Israel** and the time when God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt, the Prophet Isaiah wrote (Isaiah 63:10 CSB):

> *But they rebelled*
> *and grieved his Holy Spirit.*
> *So he became their enemy*
> *and fought against them.*

Throughout the Bible, there are many times when God's people rebelled against him, and when God **made clear his grief**. Often it seemed that God **responded as if he had become their enemy**.

How is this a godly response by God?

Verses - Ephesians 4:30-32 (CSB)

30 And God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. 32 And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

Study

1. What do you think Paul is mainly worried about? Is he warning Christians in Ephesus that God might become their enemy, if they do not set aside their bitterness, anger, wrath, shouting, slander, malice, etc. (v31)?

2. Consider the last part of verse 32, where Paul writes: "just as God also forgave you in Christ." Notice that Paul used the past tense of the verb: God forgave you. Does this mean God has forgiven all their sins, both past and future?

3. Paul in v.30 says the Christians in Ephesus that they were sealed by him [God's Holy Spirit] for the day of redemption [past tense]. What does this mean for the believer?

4. If we understand *correctly* that all our sins (past and future) have been forgiven, and that our redemption (salvation) has already been sealed (guaranteed), why worry about offending the Holy Spirit? See Romans 6.

APPLY

If we were to follow Paul's instructions in v.32, is there anything else that we would need to worry about? What? To what extent are we able to follow Paul's instructions?

DISCUSS

Read Romans 8:14. How does the Holy Spirit lead us? How is this leading helpful in preparing us for the day of redemption? To the extent that we yield to (rather than resist) the leading of the Holy Spirit, in what ways do you think that our lives may be easier, and in what ways might our lives be more difficult?

Share

Think of a time when you were amazed that you had been able to overcome some sin or temptation, or you were able to accomplish some good work—and then felt certain this was evidence of the leading of God's Holy Spirit. Share with the group, if you wish to.

Grow

Pray for each other. And also that God will help us to yield ourselves to the leading of His Spirit, and that He will have his way with us, helping us to know, please, and become more like God, so that we will not be embarrassed on the day of redemption. Also that we may also find greater joy in this life, even though and especially when the Spirit leads us into and through some struggles.