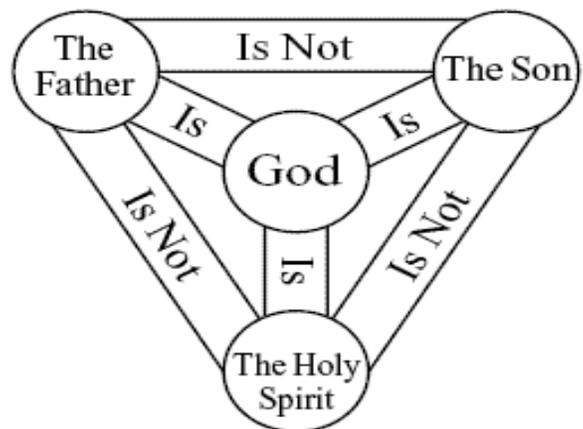


The Holy Spirit

Introduction

Some Definitions:

- *Ruach* (hebrew, feminine) - breath or wind
- *Pneuma* (greek, neuter) – breath or wind
 - Throughout Scripture, the Spirit's work is seen in creation, revelation, redemption, and renewal.
- parakletos - one who gives support; helper, adviser, strengthener, encourager, ally, and advocate (John 14:16).
- charismata - gifts which are specific manifestations of charis or grace, God's active and creative love, (1 Cor. 12:4).
- pneumatika - spiritual gifts, which are participation in the energy of the Holy Spirit, God's pneuma, (1 Cor. 12:1). Through these gifts, the Spirit serves as the mediator between Christ and the believer, applying the work of the Son to individual members of Christ's body, building the whole church up into the fullness of Christ (Eph. 1:23).



Fun Fact: the dual natures of Christ, the Divinity of the Holy Spirit and the Trinity of God were made “dogmas” at Church councils in the 4th and 5th centuries? Must we – as the Nicene creed says, “believe in the Holy Spirit?”

Why the Holy Spirit?

- “Of what help is it to you that God is God, if he is not God to you?” – Martin Luther
- “As Long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value to us.” John Calvin
- “Jesus Christ secured our redemption; the Holy Spirit applies that redemption in our lives,” Tom Tarrants
- “Without the Spirit we can neither love God nor keep His commandments.” – Augustine

The Holy Spirit ensures that God does not remain at a distance. He is God with Us after the Ascension.

Yet, The Holy Spirit is Widely Misunderstood

- “The Spirit is the first power we practically experience, but the last power we come to understand.” – Oswald Chambers
- “Though the Holy Spirit is God, equal in essence to the Father and the Son, yet his role is consistently to defer honor, to seek to bring about the glory of another.” – Bruce Ware
- “the Holy Spirit’s main ministry is not to give thrills but to create in us Christlike character,” J.I. Packer
- “Let me say that it is not a question of us getting more of the Holy Spirit, but rather of the Holy Spirit getting more of us,” Oswald Smith.

Group Discussion: (10 Minutes)

Question: Church’s Differ dramatically in their teachings and practices related to the Holy Spirit? What has your experience been? How did your church teach and welcome the Holy Spirit?

Question: What, based upon your readings this month, are some of the most common misconceptions and misapplications of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit among contemporary Christians?

The Biblical Foundation

Why Call the Holy Spirit God?

- God, Christ, Spirit used synonymously
 - Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
 - Acts 5:3 "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!"
- Spirit is eternal
 - Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!
- Spirit is worthy of Glory and Honor
 - Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 - Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.
 - 2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
- Holy Spirit is Personal
 - In Acts 13:2, the Spirit speaks in the 1st person: "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." JI Packers explains that "Paraclete ministry, by its very nature, is personal, relational ministry, implying the full personhood of the one who fulfills it."
 - Importantly, *Pneuma* is a neuter word. However, the Spirit never referred to as "it." Instead, the Spirit is referred to as He – (*ekeinos*) a masculine singular pronoun
 - John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
 - The Spirit takes Jesus' Place
 - John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. When Jesus says, "another," he uses the word *allos* rather than *heteros*. *He is saying I will send another of myself.*
 - The Spirit performs "personal" deeds
 - He teaches the disciples. In John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.
 - Bears witness to Jesus. In John 15:26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.
 - Gives guidance, hears, and speaks. In John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
 - Guides prayers. In Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
 - Can be grieved. In Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit

What is the Holy Spirit's Role?

- Provides Continuity in God's Redemptive History
 - Creates, inspires the prophets, and anoints leaders in the Old Testament. He Descends upon Jesus in New Testament and Descends on Apostles at Pentecost (Feast of Weeks).
 - The Spirit is the Fulfillment of the Covenant with Abraham
 - The Spirit is the Promise of the Gospel. When Jesus was glorified, the Spirit was poured out as a promised gift (see e.g., John 7:39; 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). The promise of the Spirit was a common element in apostolic preaching (e.g., Acts 2:38), and had its roots deep in Old Testament theology (cf. Joel 2:28-29).
 - The Spirit gives freedom to humanity. The freedom of God's people is expressed dramatically in the Old Testament as the liberation from exile through the Spirit-anointed Servant (Isa 61:1) and in the New Testament as deliverance from the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2).
 - Finally, the Spirit is the power of the gospel. It is the Spirit who energizes and makes effective the preaching of the early church (John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8), and the Spirit directs the church in its mission (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:10; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9). In short, the work of the gospel is achieved through the work of the Spirit. e propulsive force which enables and empowers mission and proclamation.
- Unites us with Christ and the Father
 - Romans 8:9-11. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. [10] But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11] If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
- Anoints us In Christ, so that those who believe in the Messiah become a Messianic People
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
- Welds us together as the Body of Christ. All are gifted by the Holy Spirit, so that no one is self-sufficient and everyone has a role in building up the body, making it one.
 - 1 Corinthians 12ff The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ...As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, I don't need you! And the head cannot say to the feet, I don't need you! On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.

Group Reading: (10 Minutes)

John 14 contains one of the most important passages in the New Testament concerning the Holy Spirit. Certainly, this is the most significant passage illustrating Jesus' own teaching on the Holy Spirit. I'd like to read this passage aloud, and as we do, pay special attention to the bolded and underlined words and phrases. Please feel free to share your observations about these highlighted sections.

John 14:1, 15-27

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper**, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you**. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that **I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you**. Whoever has my **commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me**.

And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves

me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

What Difference does the doctrine of the Holy Spirit make?

- The Spirit is God
 - After the incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, the presence of God remains with his people, not in a less intimate way, but in a more intimate way. (See, John 14:15-27; Acts 2:17-21)
 - God does not abandon his people but dwells on earth in power and glory even now
- The Spirit is Personal
 - Not a force that we employ, but a person to be obeyed, followed, listened to
 - The Spirit has a character and a will. Both have already been revealed in Jesus Christ, the Lord.
- The Spirit is “One” with Father and Son
 - Continuity with Father and Son
 - Part of the Same “Divine Drama”

General Discussion: : We cannot overstate the importance of the Christian claim that the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is ONE. What this means is that there is no access to God except through the Son and Spirit. Likewise, the work of the Son and Spirit will always glorify the Father. The works of God are “indivisible.” All three members of the Godhead are always united even as they relate to each other through love and reciprocity.

Following this logic, and echoing the Church Fathers, John Calvin wrote that the Word of God (logos) is the language of the Holy Spirit. What do you make of that statement? What are its implications?

How does it correct common misconceptions? Could it become the basis of its own misconceptions and misapplications?