

Who Is The Holy Spirit And How Can We Know Him?

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I. "Another comforter." (John 15:26)

A. Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost mean the same thing.

B. The blunder of the liberals.

1. They neglected the deity of Jesus or explained it away.

2. They denied Jesus' Lordship over the church.

C. The blunder of evangelical Christian.

1. The neglect for the deity of the Holy Spirit.

2. The neglect for the Holy Spirit's Lordship in the church.

3. Results.

a. Despoiled fellowship.

b. Many anti-spiritual features have been brought into the church.

1) We bring several things in to keep people coming.

2) The great woe is not the presence of spiritual items, but the absence of the Holy Spirit as a result of wrong emphasis.

3) There are some churches that if the Holy Spirit left, they would not find out three months later.

4) The Spirit never leaves a church completely, but he can let us get along without Him for years.

II. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. What is the Holy Spirit?

1. Spirit is another mode of being than matter.

2. The Holy Spirit is immaterial.

3. One power of spirit is to penetrate matter.

- a. Our spirit penetrates our bodies.
- b. Jesus could not pass through matter before He died, but only after.

4. Spirit can penetrate personality.

B. What is the Holy Spirit not?

1. Enthusiasm.
2. Courage.
3. Energy.
4. Personification of anything.

C. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

1. Has substance.
2. Has individuality.
3. Has intelligence.
4. Has the ability to love.
5. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit.
6. The Holy Spirit is present in the church.

III. How do we know Who the Spirit is?

A. The church fathers and the creeds affirm the deity of the Trinity.

1. Athanasius and Arius.
2. All three are Lord, God, and Almighty, yet there is only one Lord, God, and Almighty.
3. The Holy Spirit is not made but proceeding.

B. The Scriptures affirm the deity of the Holy Spirit too.

1. Omnipresent.
2. Creative power. (Job 27)

3. Called Lord. (2 Corinthians 3)

4. Included in the baptismal formula - it would be shocking to include any other name along with God if it was not God's name.

C. The Holy Spirit is present in our midst.

1. He knows our thoughts.

2. He is with us.

3. He exercises all the rights of God and merits worship.

D. Being of Jesus, He is exactly like Jesus just as Jesus is exactly like the Father.

1. We can know what the Spirit thinks by what Jesus thinks.

2. We can know what the Spirit feels by what Jesus feels.

3. The Spirit acts exactly like Jesus acts.

4. Jesus was the most kindly and beautiful character that ever was. He was demonstrating the Spirit.

5. The Spirit is gentle, kind, cultured, and friendly.

E. The Spirit's friendliness.

1. Because He is friendly, he grieves.

2. You can only grieve someone who loves you.

F. It is by the Spirit that God works His mighty work.

IV. Application.

A. It is possible to run a church without the Holy Spirit.

B. There needs to be an eager seeking for what God has.

Application questions.

1. What did you learn about the Holy Spirit that stood out to you the most in this message?

2. What is the character of the Holy Spirit like? What misconceptions of the Holy Spirit have been taught abroad?

3. What kind of relationship do you have with the Holy Spirit? What about your church? What can you do to raise awareness of this crucial Person in your own life and others?
