

# **The Holy Spirit: Why Some Can't Receive Him**

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## I. Introduction.

A. The world cannot receive the Spirit of Truth, because it does not know Him. (John 14:16)

B. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4-6)

1. There is a sharp line drawn between those of the antichrist and those of God.

## II. Christianity teaches that there is a plain contradiction between the spirit of the world and the spirit of the Christian.

A. There is a fallen spirit in the world.

B. There is a redeemed spirit in the Christian.

C. These two are divided and hostile towards each other.

1. There can only be irreconcilable enmity between the two.

2. The Spirit of Jesus brought hostility between Himself and the world. Not a popular message, but what the Bible and church history has taught.

3. This antithesis accounts for all persecution.

a. The example of Abel who was born twice, slain by Cain who was born once.

b. The example of Jacob and Esau.

4. There is no compromise or dialogue. Christianity is not to be made acceptable to the world. It is about making declarations not compromises.

## III. The world cannot receive the Spirit of Christ.

A. Satan has blinded the world.

B. The Spirit is available to all, but only received by those prepared.

1. A work of God must prepare them to receive the Spirit.

2. Only those with the Spirit belong to the Father. People call this bigotry today. But it is simply a matter of fact.

C. The worldly man cannot understand any spiritual realities because he is of the world.

1. There must be an illumination from heaven to change this.

IV. When the Spirit comes, the Holy Spirit will convict the world.

A. Nobody can repent properly until the Holy Spirit shows him.

B. God does not necessarily elect people who are morally better or who have a “religious” bent.

1. What matters is whether something happens inside of a person.

2. This is a mystery of God.

3. The elect hear the voice of God.

V. The world is trying to make the church harmless today.

VI. One cannot tell the elect from the outside appearance.

A. Their backgrounds, personalities, and countenances are as varied as the non-elect.

B. Salvation is not based upon what kind of a person someone is, but what is done in a person.

C. In contrast, the Christian who has received the Spirit is of an entirely new kind of people.

**Application questions.**

1. What are the differences between those of the world and those indwelt by the Spirit?

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2. Why is it that these differences between Christians and nonbelievers are irreconcilable? In light of this, how should we react to the pleas for more religious dialogue?

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3. What kind of person does it take to become a Christian of the new birth? How should we treat all people in light of your answer?

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