

Associated Gospel Churches - Articles of Faith and Doctrine

The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit

December 11, 2005

The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit

IV. The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine personality - the eternal third Person of the Trinity - who is now, throughout this Age of Grace, here present in the true Church, having been sent for the express purpose of revealing Christ Jesus to the members of the Church, that they may be comforted, instructed, and built up in their most holy faith, and to the world that sinners may be convicted of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

John 7:38-39; 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-15; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

IV. The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit

– one of several AGC articles about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit

- **IX - Regeneration by the Holy Spirit**
- **XI - Sanctification**
- **XII - The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**
- **XIII - The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**
- **XIV - The Unity of the True Church in the Mystical Body of Christ**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

IV. The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit

- one of several AGC articles about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit**
 - speaks of the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual believer and of the Church**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Personality of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit is a person, not an impersonal force

- **“We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine personality...” (i.e. not just an impersonal force)**

- contrary to beliefs of Arianism & other Trinitarian heresies, Jehovah’s Witnesses

- **always referred to in the Bible as “He,” not “it”**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Personality of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit is a person, not an impersonal force

- **can be grieved**

“Yet they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit...” (Isa 63:10)

- **can be lied to**

“...how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 5:3)

- **has desires**

“...those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires...” (Rom 8:5)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit is fully God

**“...how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit... you have not lied to men, but to God.”
(Acts 5:3-4)**

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:17-18)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

– **the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity**

• **“We believe that the Holy Spirit is... the eternal third Person of the Trinity...”**

– placed on same level as other Persons of the Trinity in Matt 28:19-20, 2 Cor. 13:14, Rev. 1:4-6, etc.

e.g. Matt. 28:19: “...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit manifests the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the Church

- e.g. in Creation**

“Now the earth was formless and empty... and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” (Gen 1:2)

- e.g. at Pentecost**

“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:2-4)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– **the Holy Spirit manifests the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the Church**

- **in the world, brings conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment**

“When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...” (John 16:8)

- **to unbelievers, gives rebirth (i.e. regeneration)**

“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.’”
(John 3:5)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– **the Holy Spirit manifests the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the Church**

- **came upon the Church at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)**

- **since that time, dwells in all believers in Christ**

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this He meant the Spirit...” (John 7:38-39)

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” (1 Cor 6:19)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– in the Church, the Holy Spirit manifests the active presence of God to bless His people by:

- empowering**
- purifying**
- revealing**
- unifying**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **empowers** God's people by:

- **giving new life (John 3:5-8)**

- **giving power for service**

 - **most fully seen in Jesus Himself**

 - **“Jesus returned to Galilee [after His temptation in the wilderness] in the power of the Spirit... He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him” (Luke 4:14-15)**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **empowers** God's people by:

- **giving power for service**

- the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus' disciples for ministry

- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)

- the Holy Spirit empowers preaching

- “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...”
(Acts 4:8)

- “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power...” (1 Cor 2:4)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **empowers** God's people by:

- **empowering prayer and making it effective**

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”
(Rom 8:26)

- **giving spiritual gifts to equip them for service**

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Cor 12:7)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **empowers** God's people by:

- **empowering believers to overcome spiritual opposition to God's work (i.e. spiritual warfare)**

“But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matt 12:28)

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” (Luke 12:11-12)

“These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.” (Acts 6:12-18)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **purifies**:

- **the *Holy Spirit* - cleanses from sin & sanctifies**
- **convicts the world of sin, righteousness & judgment**
- **does an initial cleansing work when one becomes a Christian**
 - makes a decisive break with the patterns of sin that were present before conversion

“But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and *by the Spirit of our God.*” (1 Cor 6:11)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **purifies**:

- **after the initial break with sin, the Holy Spirit continues to produce holiness in life**

– produces the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

– transforms believers to be more like God, with ever-increasing glory

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 6:18)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **purifies:**

- **thus, sanctification comes by the power of the Holy Spirit**

“...from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit...” (2 Thess 2:13)

“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” (Rom 8:13-14)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **reveals** by:

- **inspiring the writing of the Scriptures**

“...men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit...” (2 Pet 1:21)

- **leading Christ’s apostles into all truth**

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” (John 16:13-14)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **reveals** by:

- **glorifying Jesus and bearing witness to Him**

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me.” (John 15:26)

“In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been *revealed by the Spirit* to God’s holy apostles and prophets.” (Eph 3:5)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **reveals** by:

- **guiding and directing God's people**

“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.’” (Acts 13:2)

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which *the Holy Spirit has made you overseers...*” (Acts 20:28)

“...those who are *led by the Spirit of God* are sons of God.”
(John 16:13-14)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **reveals** by:

- **teaching us and illuminating God's word to us**

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

“No, we speak of God's secret wisdom... None of the rulers of this age understood it... but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God... We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.” (1 Cor 2:8-13)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **reveals** by:

- **giving us assurance that we are God's children**

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.” (Rom 8:16)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **unifies** by:

- **placing us all into one body, the Body of Christ**

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given one Spirit to drink.” (1 Cor 12:13)

– **a new community marked by unity, through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, *if any fellowship with the Holy Spirit*, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” (Phil 2:1-2)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **unifies** by:

- **giving a diversity of spiritual gifts**

– **necessitates dependence on one another**

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... 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... But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.” (from 1 Cor 12:4-31)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **unifies** by:

- **creating an environment characterized by the fruit of the Spirit**
 - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal 5:22-23)
 - reflect the attributes of God, and show the active presence of God in the midst of His people

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit **unifies** by:

- **creating an environment characterized by the fruit of the Spirit**

– **results in maintenance of the unity of the Spirit**

- e.g. “And over all these virtues put on *love*, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Col 3:14)
- e.g. “Be completely humble and *gentle*; be *patient*, bearing with one another in *love*. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of *peace*.” (Eph 4:2-3)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence and blessing of God according to our response to Him

- **best illustrated in Jesus**

- a man without sin; the Spirit remained on Him (John 1:32) and was given to Him “without limit” (John 3:34)

- **it is possible to resist the Spirit (Acts 7:51), grieve Him (Eph 4:30), and to quench the Spirit (1 Thess 5:19)**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

- **the Holy Spirit gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence and blessing of God according to our response to Him**

- **disobedience to the Holy Spirit has serious consequences**

- **e.g. Ananias and Sapphira: “... you have lied to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to men but to God. When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died.” (Acts 5:3-5)**
- **“How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?” (Heb 10:29)**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

– the Holy Spirit gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence and blessing of God according to our response to Him

- **obedience results in the Holy Spirit's presence to bring great blessing**

- Jesus given the Spirit “without limit” (John 3:34)

- will enjoy the fullness of the ‘streams of living water [that] will flow from within him’ (John 7:38)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

- How then shall we live?

“... be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Eph 5:18)

- lives filled with the immediate presence of God through the working of the Holy Spirit
 - rejoicing in the Spirit (Luke 10:21)
 - praying in the Spirit (Eph 6:18)
 - loving in the Spirit (Col 1:8)
 - minds set on the things of the Spirit (Rom 8:4-6)
 - keeping in step with the Spirit (Gal 5:25)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

- How then shall we live?

“... be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Eph 5:18)

- lives that do not grieve the Holy Spirit, but rather are empowered, purified, and guided by Him
- lives lived as members of one body, making every effort to preserve the unity of the Body of Christ

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, *if any fellowship with the Holy Spirit*, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” (Phil 2:1-2)

Next class

**The Fall of Humanity &
The Total Depravity of Humans**

December 18, 2005

References

- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), p634-653.