

The Holy Spirit

The LORD our God is One

**Selected Texts from Scripture
Lesson 1**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 3, 2012*

The Holy Spirit

**Are you a Spirit filled Christian?
Is this a Spirit filled Church?**

Spirit Filled

- ▶ Intense emotional feelings
- ▶ Miraculous experiences – speaking in tongues, healing
- ▶ A higher level of Christian experience – 2nd blessing
- ▶ Pentecostal or Charismatic Christian
- ▶ A Christian

The Holy Spirit

- ▶ Who is the Holy Spirit?
- ▶ What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit

▶ The Holy Spirit in the Godhead

- His Person: The doctrine of the Trinity
- The Holy Spirit and the revelation of God

▶ The Holy Spirit in Biblical History

- Old Testament – History and Prophets (2)
- The Life of Christ – ministry and teachings of Christ (2)
- The Church – formation and life of the early Church (2)

▶ The Holy Spirit in Salvation

- In the unbeliever – regeneration (1)
- In the believer – indwelling and sanctification (2)
- In the Church – gifts (tongues) (2)

▶ Appendix: A review and response

▶ Historical documents: Nicene and Constantinople Creeds

The LORD our God is One

- ▶ Historical background

- How did the early church understand the Holy Spirit?
- Important Church Councils which defined orthodoxy

- ▶ What does the Bible say?

- Systematic theology

The Trinity

- ▶ Not a Biblical term
- ▶ Tertullian (160-220) – introduced the term “trinity”
- ▶ The union of three divine persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in one God.
- ▶ The fundamental description of God: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- ▶ There is only one God (Isaiah 42:8; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- ▶ God presented in Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Athanasian Creed (400 to 500)

“The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God; and yet there are not three Gods but one God. The Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Ghost is Lord, and yet there are not three Lords but one Lord. For as we are compelled by Christian truth to acknowledge each Person by Himself to be God and Lord, so we are forbidden by the same truth to say that there are three Gods or three Lords.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism

6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

“There are three Persons within the Godhead,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
and these three are one God,
the same in substance, equal in power and glory.”

Early Doctrinal Disputes

- ▶ Jerusalem Council re: the Law and the Gospel
- ▶ Gnostic heresy in the second century
- ▶ Understanding the Trinity

Ignatius of Antioch (35 or 50–98 or 117)

- ▶ “If any one confesses the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and praises the creation, but calls the incarnation merely an appearance, and is ashamed of the passion, such an one has denied the faith, not less than the Jews who killed Christ.”
- ▶ “And ye are prepared for the building of God the Father, and ye are raised up on high by the instrument of Jesus Christ, which is the cross; and ye are drawn by the rope, which is the Holy Spirit; and your pulley is your faith, and your love is the way which leadeth up on high to God.”

Irenaeus (125-202)

- ▶ “For in the name of Christ is implied, He that anoints, He that is anointed, and the Unction itself with which He is anointed. And it is the Father who anoints, but the Son who is anointed by the Spirit, who is the Unction, as the Word declares by Isaiah, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me,” – pointing out both the anointing Father, the anointed Son, and the Unction, which is the Spirit.”

Tertullian (160-220)

- ▶ In this way, also, One is All, in that All are One; by unity of substance, that is. Whilst nevertheless, the mystery of the economy is guarded, which distributes the unity into a trinity, placing in their order three (persons), the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, – three , however, not in condition but in degree; not in substance, but in form; not in power, but in aspect; *yet of one substance, and of one condition and of one power.*

Hippolytus (170-235)

- ▶ “I will not say two Gods, but one God, and two Persons. For the Father is one; but there are two Persons, because there is also the Son, and the third Person is the Holy Ghost . . . The Word of God, Christ, having risen from the dead, gave therefore this charge to his disciples, ‘Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,’ showing that whosoever omits one of these, does not fully glorify God. For through the Trinity, the Father is glorified. The Father willed, the Son wrought, the Holy Spirit manifested. All the scriptures proclaim this.”

Alternate Views – Heresy

- ▶ Sabellianism, (modalism) – the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit are different modes or aspects of one God, as perceived by the believer, rather than three distinct persons in God Himself.
- ▶ Arius (AD 250–336) – the Son of God did not always exist, but was created by, and is therefore distinct from, God the Father. He held a similar view of the Holy Spirit.

The Council at Nicea, 325 AD

- ▶ We believe in one God, the FATHER Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.
- ▶ And in one Lord JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God, begotten of the Father; that is, of the essence of the Father, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man; he suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
- ▶ And in the HOLY GHOST.
- ▶ But those who say: “there was a time when he was not;” and “He was not before he was made;” and “He was made out of nothing,” or “He is of another substance” or “essence,” or “The Son of God is created,” or “changeable,” or “alterable” --they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.

The Council at Nicea, 325 AD

- ▶ An iota:
 - homo*ι*ousios (similar substance)
 - homoousios (same substance)
- ▶ Decided by the Emperor – not majority vote

The Council at Constantinople 381 AD

- ▶ We believe in one God, the FATHER Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
- ▶ And in one Lord JESUS CHRIST, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.
- ▶ And in the HOLY GHOST, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. In one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; we acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Filoque – and the Son

- ▶ Added by the 3rd Synod of Toledo in 589
- ▶ “Begotten” to bring into existence
 - eternal creation – to create out of nothing
 - eternal generation – means to derive eternal essence
- ▶ In these creeds, it means eternal generation of having the same nature or essence
- ▶ Acts 13:30-35 (Psalm 2:7) – begotten refers to resurrection

A Persistent Heresy

- ▶ Socinianism
- ▶ Unitarianism
- ▶ Mormonism
- ▶ Jehovah's Witnesses
- ▶ Some Pentecostals

Names and Titles of the Holy Spirit

- ▶ Spirit of God (Gen. 1:2); Spirit of the Lord (Luke 4:18); Spirit of Our God (1 Cor. 6:11); Spirit of the LORD God (Isaiah 61:1); Spirit of your Father (Matt. 10:20); Spirit of the living God (2 Cor. 3:3); My Spirit (Gen. 6:3); Thy Spirit (Psalm 139:7); His Spirit (Num. 11:29); Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus (Rom. 8:11)
- ▶ Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9); Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19); Spirit of His Son (Gal. 4:6); Spirit of the Lord (Acts 5:9)
- ▶ Holy Spirit (Latin, spiritus) or Holy Ghost (Anglo Saxon word); Spirit of Holiness (Rom. 1:4); Holy One (1 John 2:20); Eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14); Spirit of Life (Roman 8:2); Spirit of Truth (John 14:17); Comforter (John 14-16)

The Unity of God

- ▶ “The LORD our God, the LORD is One.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)
- ▶ One – single unit – Genesis 2:21 – “one” rib
- ▶ One – unity – Genesis 2:24 – man and woman become “one”
- ▶ Absolute unity

The Plurality of the Godhead

- ▶ The use of plural pronouns – Gen. 1:26-27; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8
- ▶ Simultaneous appearance – Matthew 3:13-17
- ▶ All three mentioned together – Luke 1:26; Matthew 28:19; Romans 8:9; Hebrews 9:14

The Holy Spirit does the work of God

- ▶ Creation – Gen. 1:1; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16; Job 33:4
- ▶ Inspiration – 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21
- ▶ Regeneration – John 3:3-8 with James 1:17-18; Titus 3:5-7 with Ephesians 2:4

Holy Spirit Equated with God

- ▶ Lie to God = lie to Holy Spirit – Acts 5:1-11
- ▶ Holy Spirit dwells in the Temple of God –
1 Cor. 3:16-17; Gal. 2:20; John 14:23

Holy Spirit has the Attributes of God

- ▶ Omnipresence – Psalm 139:7
- ▶ Omniscience – Isaiah 40:13-14
- ▶ Truth – Acts 1:16
- ▶ Eternity – Hebrews 9:14

The Trinitarian Economy

- ▶ The will of the Father is dominant – to save
 - Jesus came to do the will of the Father (John 6:38)
 - Jesus came to reveal the Father (John 1:14; Heb. 1:1-3)
 - The Holy Spirit comes from the Father (John 14:26; 15:26)
 - The Holy Spirit comes from the Son (John 15:26; 16:7)

The Trinitarian Economy

- ▶ The will of the Father is to exalt the Son
 - The work of God is that we might believe in the Son (John 6:29)
 - The Son gives eternal life to those given Him by the Father (John 17:2)
 - The end point is the exaltation of the Son (Phil. 2:5-11; John 17:1, 5)
 - The Holy Spirit testifies of the Son and exalts the Son (John 15:26; 16:14)
 - At the end, the Son will be subjected to the Father that God may be “all in all.” (1 Corinthians 15:27-28)

The Trinitarian Economy

- ▶ The distinguishing work of the Godhead (Eph. 1:3-14)
 - Design: The Father chooses and administers the work of salvation
 - Execution: The Son accomplishes the work of salvation
 - Application: The Holy Spirit applies the work of salvation

The Trinity

- ▶ A Divine mystery
- ▶ A clear revelation in Scripture
- ▶ A cause for praise and worship