

Theme: It is the Holy Spirit who makes the church one *with* Christ and one *in* Christ. It is by the Spirit that God dwells with his people such that we are His people and He is our God. It is through the gift of the Spirit that the promise of God is fulfilled. And it is in the power of the Spirit that we proclaim His glory and salvation to the nations.

Background: The church is the fruit of the work of the Trinity. We have looked at the work of the Father and the Son. Now we look at the work of the Spirit.

Introduction: The doctrine of the Holy Spirit suffers either from neglect or enthusiastic, experiential interest. The Holy Spirit needs to be understood as expressing power, energy, life – an ethereal existence. The NT allows us to see the distinct person of the Holy Spirit in the Godhead more clearly for His work and activity is that of a person, not a force. It is the Holy Spirit who brings us into...

I. Union with Christ

A. This Immense Blessing

In Christ we are:

- Blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3 & 4)
- Ransomed and redeemed! (Romans 6:2-11; Ephesians 2:4-6)
- A new creation! (Ephesians 2:10)
- Given new life (Romans 6:4)
- Delivered from death (1 Thessalonians 4:14 & 16)
- Raised to eternal life (1 Corinthians 15:5)

B. A Spiritual Union

1. The bond of our union with Christ is the Holy Spirit! (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - Christ dwells in us by the Holy Spirit.
2. What is Christ's is ours!

C. A Spiritual Relationship

1. It is not:
 - Like the two nature of Christ in one person (human/divine)
 - Like our own union of body and soul
 - Just union of feeling, purpose, understanding
2. It is:
 - A real relationship by which Christ dwells in His people – and His people dwell in Him. (1Corinthians 2:9)
3. Compared to:
 - That of the Father and Son (John 17:21-23)
 - Stones in a building
 - Everything in between

II. God's Dwelling Place

A. Sinai and the Tabernacle

1. Sinai –

- God gathered his people and revealed Himself in wind, fire and Word (Hebrews 12:18-21)
- Moses *ascended* the mountain
- He came *down* with the 10 commandments

2. The Tabernacle

- God's dwelling place

B. The Covenant Promise - Affirmed and expanded

a. A deliverer would

b. God would circumcise their hearts (Ezekiel 36)

c. He would pour his spirit upon them (Joel 2)

C. Pentecost and the Church

1. Jesus fulfills his ministry (Matthew 3:11)

- His promise
- His suffering, death and resurrection
- His ascension

2. The disciples are gathered

a. The Spirit descends!

- The Father and the Son send the Spirit (John 15:26; John 14:16)

b. At Pentecost:

- Holy Spirit is poured out!
- Jesus *descends* in the Holy Spirit

c. The Spirit comes

- In wind, fire and word

3. A Temple of living stones

- God comes and lays claim to his people
- Filling living stones (1 Peter 2:5)
- A holy residence (1 Corinthians 6:19)

D. With Power!

E. With gifts

F. With Peace