

**Scripture Reading: John 14:21-31**

**“[Jesus said], He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me. 5 “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”**

## **"There is One Spirit?"**

**This morning we continue our study of the opening verses of Ephesians chapter four where the Apostle Paul speaks of seven givens or unities: “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”**

**Having consider the one Body, we now come to where Paul says there is One Spirit so a basic question must again be asked as we did with the one Body:**

- **Who is the One Spirit?**

**Let me begin with a quick lesson about the power of language for the older children especially or even we adults! Please notice that I have set many of the parameters of this discussion by the very question that I chose to ask.**

**Note that I did not ask, ‘What is the One Spirit?’, or even ‘what do we know about the One Spirit.’**

- **By asking “Who is the One Spirit,” I have made the assumption that we are talking about a person.**
- **This is very appropriate because that is exactly how the Scriptures present the Spirit of God.**

**But had I said, “What is the One Spirit” we would begin the discussion from a different point.**

**Today’s skeptics certainly understand the importance of such framing of the discussion when they come asking their challenging questions:**

**“Does God exist?” or “If God is all powerful and good, then why is there so much evil in this world?”**

**Now if someone asks such questions, we should certainly take the opportunity to begin witnessing to them, but as we do we must make sure that the discussion does not start with their assumptions...**

**By asking those questions in that way, they are setting up man’s “reason” as the standard by which we judge the existence of God or His actions in history.**

- **The Bible is clear that we must deal with the One True God and not one of our own making.**

**The Bible declares man’s conscience reveals that God exists and that anyone can see His work in history and the world around them!**

**In Romans 1 Paul declares that, “what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. [the conscience within] 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power & Godhead, so that they are without excuse...”**

- Every person who is born, has to live in God's Creation AND they cannot escape their own conscience.

The Apostle Paul goes on to teach us that fallen men and women are unthankful & suppress these truths in unrighteousness & that is the key point we should focus on in our witnessing.

Rather than debate how old some rock is, we should point out how all of creation declares the glory of God and seek to find out why the skeptic is suppressing such obvious knowledge.

If you want to learn from the Master in this regard, notice how many times in the Gospels, Jesus would answer a question with another question or begin a discussion with a familiar comment, like give me a drink of water when He was near a well.

In the case of our modern skeptics who want to debate the existence of God, we might begin by asking something like this: "If we do debate that question, just who do you think would judge the rightness or wrongness of our positions?"

They will likely say something like, '*well EVERYONE' has to decide that question for themselves!*'

- My response could be another question: If everyone decides that God does not exist, does that mean He does not?
- And of course the follow-up question can be, what if everyone decides that gravity is not real? Would that make it any less real? Could I then safely step off any building no matter how high it was?

Right on cue, they would say that EVERYONE knows that gravity is real!

And that would bring them back to the first point:

- As Paul declared, everyone lives in God's Creation which declares His power and majesty!
- The very proof that any honest quest would be looking for, but is suppressed in unrighteousness by unthankful people.
- So the problem is one of sin and not logic or knowledge.

So back to our question for this morning:

- "Who is the One Spirit"

While asking the question this way does not prove that He is a person, it is still the proper place to begin the discussion.

Now of course someone who is a skeptic or even sincerely searching could ask the proper question of us:

- How do you know the Spirit is a 'Who?'
- We would then take them to the Bible: God's revelation to man!

As we work through what has been revealed about the Third Person of the Trinity in God's Word we will see that His personhood is beyond dispute, and that He is the One Spirit of which Paul speaks here in Ephesians! Let me begin with what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in His final discussions with His disciples before He was betrayed and went to the cross as the great sacrifice for our sins:

Jesus promised that the Spirit would come in the near future and described at least three aspects of His work in the Church and the world... I read a portion of John 14 as our morning text, and just before that portion we find this at verse 15: "If you love Me, keep My commandments 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

- Notice that Jesus naturally & often refers to the Spirit personally as Him.

And we see this again in our text that I read this morning: John 14:25 ““These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ”

- In the course of this final teaching before His passion, Jesus discusses at least three areas where the Spirit will serve as our powerful Helper...
- He will testify of Jesus:

John 15:26: ““But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ”

- It is the Spirit Who gives us the proper understanding of God’s Word!
- The right understanding of God’s Word will always center on Jesus!

Next we learn that the Spirit will bring the world under conviction:

John 16:7 ““Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

- These great Truths are what give us confidence in our witnessing to those God brings into our lives: Whether they are family, friends or complete strangers!

It is not our job or even our ultimate responsibility to bring a sinner under conviction... We are to trust that the Spirit of God will do His work in their lives as we present God’s truth whether boldly or meekly, whether well or not so well!

- And finally, as we should have learned well in our journey through the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit will glorify the Son:

John 16:13 “[When] He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

- Listening to Jesus, we have established that the Spirit is a person and should understand what the ministry of the Holy Spirit has been down through history...
- And we see why it was so important that He came as promised on Pentecost!

Now let me quickly review the basic question that we wanted our children and all of us to be able to rightly answer:

- Who is the One Spirit?

First and foremost the Bible clearly presents the Spirit as a person to whom we can relate: The Spirit of God teaches us, strives with us, comforts us, and helps us in our time of need. The Bible teaches that He can be vexed, grieved and even lied to as we saw with Ananias and Sapphira in Acts chapter five.

- The Spirit of God has been given by the Father to fill the earth with the Kingdom of Jesus so He can bring glory to the Son!

In doing so the Spirit of God does give us leaders & gifts, as we will study a bit later here in Chapter four. The Spirit helps us to rightly divide the Word to lead us into all Truth.

- **And yes, the Almighty Spirit of God is certainly not restricted from performing whatever miracles He might deem necessary to accomplish His work at any point in history.**

**Of course I cannot possibly cover all that we can know about the Holy Spirit in one sermon...**

**But I want to leave you with three things to remember about Him when we think about the question: Who is the One Spirit?**

- **The One Spirit is our God!**

**When the Apostle Peter confronts Ananias in his sin he tells him that he did not lie to men, but rather to God! We see the Spirit at work at the very beginning of Creation, at the baptism of Jesus and finally on the Day of Pentecost when He came as the promised Comforter or Helper that Jesus promised.**

**And that brings us to the second truth to remember:**

- **The Holy Spirit is our Guide!**

**We read these comforting words in Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin:**

**He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit...**

**8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.”**

**And finally, we should remember...**

- **The Holy Spirit is our Comforter!**

**Jesus promised that He would send the Comforter and we see this role nowhere more clearly than as Paul continues in on Romans chapter eight: Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”**

**16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”**

- **The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity: He is our God and deserves our worship and our obedience.**

**The Spirit is the one who comes to bring glory to Jesus and He prepares us to be the glorious bride of Christ...**

- **He is our guide in all of life!**

**The Holy Spirit is the one who confirms God's love for His people causing them to cry out 'Abba Father'**

- **He is truly the Comforter Who Jesus promised to send!**

**Who is the One Spirit?**

- **He is our God ...  
    He is our guide ...  
    And He is our comforter!**

**Communion Meditation: Romans 8**

**15 "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."**

**16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."**