

5. The Spirit (Pneumatology), Sanctification, and the Trinity

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The Spirit

- The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- The Nicene Creed:

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

Who is the Spirit?

- Gendered? Grammar of the Spirit:
 - *Pneuma* (Gk.), *ruach* (Hb.) = feminine but not necessarily female
 - Gender of God? It's a way to relate to people, not to be literal.
 - Pronouns of the Spirit: "he" not "it"
- Personal. Person of the Spirit: God is three persons, and one person of the Trinity is the Spirit
- Divine. Thomas Oden's four tests for divinity (*Classic Christianity*, pp 114–115):
 1. Names of God: "Spirit of God," "Spirit of the Lord," "Spirit of truth" (John 4:24, etc.)
 2. Attributes of God. Omniscient (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:10–12); eternal (Heb. 9:14); all powerful (Romans 15:18–19)
 - John 14:26: "26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."
 - 1 Cor. 2:10 The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
 - Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
 - Rom 15:18–19 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— 19 by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit.

3. Works of God:
 - Revelation of divine wisdom (1 Cor. 2:9–10), gives new life to believers (Titus 3:5), strengthens the faithful (1 Cor. 6:19); gives gifts of ministry (1 Cor. 12).
 - “Only God can remit sin (John 3:5), give life (John 6:63), sanctify sinners (2 These. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2), perform miracles (12:28; Luke 1:35), and bring life out of death (Rom. 3:11)” (114).
4. Worshiped as God:
 - John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.
 - The baptized are baptized into Father, Son, and Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

The Work of the Spirit

- The purpose of the Holy Spirit: John 16:7–11: John 16:7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. 12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 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. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.
- Indwelling of the Spirit:
 - Ephesians 1:13–14: 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.
 - 1 Cor 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.
- Work of the Spirit and the means of grace.
- *Gifts of the Spirit*: Ephesians 6; 1 Cor. 12; and Romans 12. Here’s my conclusion about the gifts of the Spirit: They’re all for the building up of the body. Your gifts are never for you; that’s why the gift of singleness is not yours but what you can do when you’re single.
- The redemption of man

- Imparted righteousness
- Imputed righteousness

Sanctification

Idea

- Rom 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
- Phil 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
- 1 Pet 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.
- 2 Pet 3:14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Word

- Two ideas: 1) set apart for use and 2) cleansed

1. Set apart for use

- Matt 23:16 “Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ 17 You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that *makes* the gold *sacred*?
- John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 *Sanctify* them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I *sanctify* myself, that they too may be truly *sanctified*.
- Acts 20:32 “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are *sanctified*.
- Acts 26:17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are *sanctified* by faith in me.
- Rom 15:15 I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, *sanctified* by the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those *sanctified* in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours...
- 1 Cor 6: 11 And that is what some of you were. 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 Tim 4:4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is *consecrated* by the word of God and prayer.
- 2 Tim 2:20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, *made holy*, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.
- Heb 10:9 Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we *have been made holy* through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

2. Cleansed

- Heb 10:13–14: 13 Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, 14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who *are being made holy*.
- ?Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 *to make her holy*, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
- **1 Thess 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, *sanctify* you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.**

Both

- Rev 22:10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. 11 Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy *continue to be holy*.”

The Trinity

- It has been said that all theology is a commentary on how to live out our baptism, which we enter by the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
1. Why does the Trinity matter?
 - Because the relational nature of God matters for our relationships. If God’s not a Trinity, then he’s not a Christian God.
 - See Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012).
 2. Is God a Trinity?

- God is presented as Trinity in the Bible and from the beginning.
 - OT: Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image...”; Abrahamic Theophany in Genesis 18
 - NT:
 - Jesus’ baptism: Son, dove, Father speaks
 - Our baptism: Matthew 28: In the name of all three.
 - Ephesians: 2:18: 18 For through [Jesus] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Plus, see Ephesians 4:3–6
 - Jude 20–21: Jude 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. 21 Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.
 - Late first century: John
 - John 1:1
 - John 13–17
 - 1 John 3:23–4:3
 - My fav right now: 2 Cor 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 - By the time of the Creeds, it’s clearly established.
 - Yet it was not an invention of the Creeds. By around AD 110, Ignatius of Antioch wrote to the Magnesians to “Study, therefore, to be established in the doctrines of the Lord and the apostles...” and that they proceed “in faith and love, in the Son, and in the Father, and in the Spirit” (Ignatius, Magnesians 13; Oden, 118).
 - In *The Martyrdom of Polycarp*, around AD 156, we read of Polycarp’s prayer before his martyrdom, “I glorify thee, through the eternal and heavenly High Priest, Jesus Christ, thy beloved Servant, through whom be glory to thee with him and the Holy Spirit both now and unto the ages to come” (Oden, 118).
 - You can find the same kind of language in Tertullian (AD 213).
3. What is the Trinity?
- “The Shield of the Trinity”: God is the Son; God is the Father; God is the Holy Spirit; The Son is not the Father is not the Spirit is not the Son. *Make sure that there is not some other “God” in the middle, making four persons.*
 - Partialism: Three leaf clover implies this.
 - Modalism: Three states of water implies this.
 - What is the Trinity? Three persons, one essence. They are each equal, unified, and distinguishable.
 - Deference to the Father by the Son; deference to the Son by the Spirit.
 - Eternal begottenness of the Son.
 - Procession of the Spirit
 - Father sends the Spirit: John 15:26 “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.

- Son sends the Spirit:
 - Luke 24:49: I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.
 - John 20:21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”
- *Filioque*: The clause of “adding “Unfortunately, it was this addition to the Creed that was the “official” reason given for the Church to split into East and West in the year 1054. Of course, this was not the only issue that caused the split between East and West but it was the reason which was highlighted.”[BlueLetterBible](#)
 - The original form of the Nicene Creed declared that, “the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father.”
 - This teaching eventually was added to the Nicene Creed. The result reads: who proceeds from the Father and the Son. The added words being a translation of the Latin word filioque which means “and the Son.”
- Read the two long quotes and then Oden’s quote after on page 120. It ends with Oden: “If asked further to define the modes of generation and procession, Gregory the Theologian answered: ‘What is the procession of the Holy Spirit? Do you tell me first what is the Unbegottenness of the Father, and I will explain to you the physiology of the generation of the Son, and the procession of the Spirit, and we shall both of us be frenzy-stricken for prying into the mystery of God’ (Gregor Nazianzus, *Orat.* 31.8, *On the Holy Spirit*). It is sufficient to distinguish that the Son is begotten and the Spirit proceeds from the Father, following John's Gospel, and leave speculation to the foolish, imprudent, careless and unwise.”
- The mystery: We can understand it somewhat, especially through examples of interactions and roles; but it’s still a mystery.

More on how their relationships work

1. Father-Son relationship
 - Gospel of John
 - See my MA thesis for this, “The Unity of Believers in Jesus”, downloadable here: <https://place.asburyseminary.edu/ecommonsatsdissertations/800/>
2. Son-Spirit relationship
 - John 13–17
 - Creeds and schism: The co-sending of the Spirit
3. Spirit-Father relationship

See above.

4. God-Church Relationship: Mission and Spirit
 - John 17

Not covered in this class but covered elsewhere:

- Spiritual Gifts: This is something those who are taking it for credit can do and take a test and submit it to me to go over: <https://healthygrowingchurches.com/spiritual-gifts/>
- The Holy Spirit in depth (Acts)
- Conversion and baptism (Acts)
- Justification (Romans)
- Legalism (Romans)
- Adoption and election (Romans)
- Faith, works, law (Romans)