

Pneumatology 101 – The Identity of the Holy Spirit

Millard Erickson, on the importance of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit:

“One...the Holy Spirit is the point at which the Trinity becomes personal to the believer.”

“Second...we live in the period in which the Holy Spirit’s work is more prominent than that of the other members of the Trinity.”

- Father – Most conspicuous in the Old Testament
- Son – Most conspicuous in the Gospels and up to the ascension.
- “The Holy Spirit has occupied the center of the stage from the time of Pentecost on, that is, the period covered by the Book of Acts and the Epistles, and the ensuing periods of church history.”

“Third...it is primarily through him that we experience God.” (Christian Theology, p. 846)

“We have less explicit revelation in the Bible regarding the Holy Spirit than we find about either the Father or the Son.” (Erickson, p. 847)

Three Views of the Holy Spirit

1. An Impersonal _____

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (the official name for the Jehovah’s Witnesses) teaches that the Holy Spirit is God’s active force on the earth today. If this statement is taken alone, most Christians might agree to it. However, along with the above statement, the Watchtower also teaches that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but only a force, comparable to “wind or radio beams.”

(<http://www.watchman.org/articles/jehovahs-witnesses/jehovahs-witnesses-and-the-wholly-other-holy-spirit/>)

2. A Mode of Single _____

“Modalism states that God is a single person who, throughout biblical history, has revealed Himself in three modes or forms. Thus, God is a single person who first manifested himself in the mode of the Father in Old Testament times. At the incarnation, the mode was the Son; and after Jesus’ ascension, the mode is the Holy Spirit.” (<https://carm.org/modalism>)

3. He Is God, the Third Person of _____

What the Bible Teaches

1. HE IS _____

a. References Are Used _____ with God

Acts 5:1-10 But a certain man named Ananias...sold a possession. ² And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet. ³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴ “While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

1 Cor 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

b. He Has the _____ of God

- HOLY
- Omnipresent: “Where can I go from your Spirit?” (Ps 139:7-10)
- 1 Cor 2:10-11 “Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God”
- Luke 1:35 “the power of the Highest will overshadow you”
- Heb 9:14 “Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself...”

c. He Does the _____ of God

- Creation: Gen 1:2 (cf Job 26:13)
- Conception: Ps 104:30 “You send forth Your Spirit, they are created...”
- Incarnation: “found w/ child of Holy Spirit” (Mt 1:19-20; cf Lu 1:34-35)
- Raising Jesus (& Empowering Us): Rom 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- Inspiration : 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21

d. He Is Spoken of as _____ with God

- Matt 28:19 “baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit
- 1 Cor 12:4-6
- 2 Cor 13:14 “grace of Jesus, love of God, communion of Holy Spirit”
- 1 Pet 1:2*

2. HE IS A _____

a. Personal [Masculine] _____

- John 16:13-14

b. Personal _____

- John 14:26 “He will teach...”
- John 15:26 “He will testify...”
- John 16:8 “He will convict...”

c. Personal _____

- Mt 28:19
- 2 Cor 13:14

d. Personal _____

- Can *Teach* (John 14:26) “He will teach you all things”
- Can *Give* Gifts (1 Cor 12:11) “distributing to each one...as He wills”
- Can Be *Grieved* (Eph 4:30) “do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”
- Can Be *Lied To* (Acts 5:3-4)
- Can Be *Quenched* (1 Thes 5:19) “Do not quench the Spirit”
- Can Be *Blasphemed* Against (Mt 12:31) “blasphemy against the Spirit”

e. Personal _____

- Helper / Comforter