

You know, it's not surprising that the world doesn't believe in the Bible and orthodox, traditional Christianity, but what is surprising is to see how fast Protestant churches are abandoning Biblical Christianity. Just this past week, it was reported in the *New York Times* that the Church of England is considering whether to use gender-neutral terms to refer to God. The male terms are offensive! Now, they say they're "considering" this, but we all know that means they're going to do it, eventually the masculine term, for instance for "Father," used to refer to God will not be used.

Now, church family, let me tell you something, what happens "across the pond," the Atlantic, eventually finds its way here, and this is all part of the jettisoning of the Word of God for the woke, progressive liberals and their agenda to destroy Biblical Christianity, so as to suit the cultural elites of our day. And mom and dad...you need to understand something...you and I are likely not going to be moved in our faith...but your kids might...because of the pressure they're under to be seen as kind, loving and accepting...and that's why you have to constantly be having conversations about Biblical truth and the total reliability and supreme authority of this divinely inspired book. [The Bible]

Listen carefully, what I'm getting ready to share with you is VITAL in our day. This book, [the Bible], is the Word of God! It was written by the Holy Spirit, using 40 men to write it down...it's inspired by God via the Holy Spirit and men simply wrote down what the Spirit of God inspired them to write. They were carried along like a **creek carries a stick**...the creek controls where the stick goes...and that's what the Holy Spirit did when He inspired the 40 authors of Scripture and this is what I want to show you in 2 Peter:

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the **Father**, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son,[□] with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible, as men were carried along by Him, and I want to say this about the Bible. It's under attack and always will be under attack from the culture. In fact, people will look at you and me and say, "You're fools for believing in a book that's nothing but a book written by men...filled with fables and myths. Surely, you're smarter than that." But listen, the writers of the Bible didn't invent myths, they recorded history. Church, listen to me, we're going to have to get to the place that we're **not embarrassed by the Bible**. You see, that's Satan's tool...he wants us to be embarrassed and intimidated because we believe this book is the Word of God.

Church family, this book is either the Word of God or it isn't. It's that simple. You can't pick the parts you like and dismiss the parts you don't. There's no middle ground. If it's not the Word of God, then let's all go home and never meet again...because it's a waste of time to teach this book and to build our lives on the authority of this book. No, we'll just go with what the world says...we'll trust "our hearts...our inner selves." Do you understand that if the Bible is not the Word of God, you and I can't know for sure if we're even saved. But church, if it is the Word of God...then we must stake our lives

on it because it is the ULTIMATE AUTHORITY and we must be willing to die for the truths contained in this book...because the truths contained in this book reveal God Himself.

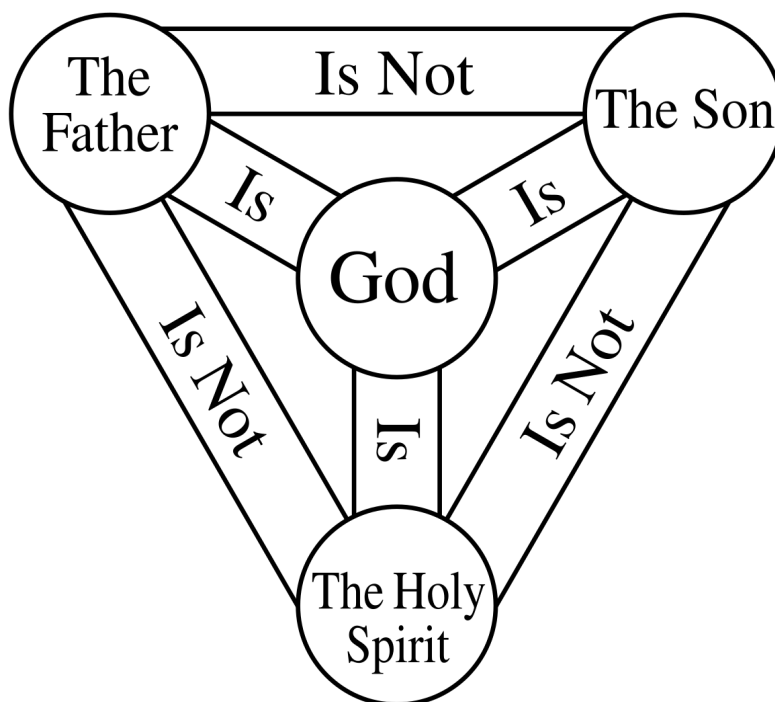
God showed His goodness and kindness to us by revealing Himself through the pages of Holy Writ. Carl FH Henry said: **“God loves us so much that he forfeited his own personal privacy in order that we might know and love him.”** Church, if we go the way of the Church of England and allow society and the current cultural norms to dictate our understanding of the Word of God, we will be destroyed. Young people in this room today...the baton is being passed to you. You have to decide where you stand and if you’re going to be willing to suffer for the kingdom of Christ and His Word. **Because if you stand on the principles outlined in this book, you WILL suffer in the days to come.**

Why? Because a secular and godless culture refuses to be told what to do. They’re god. Therefore, if you hold to the timeless truths of God’s Word, you will suffer. And these truths are timeless, just like God and they don’t change with the culture. They are the same yesterday, today and forever.

Listen, young people in your lifetime you will have to defend the right to believe in the tenets of the Bible, because if you don’t defend your rights, your religious liberty will be stripped from you and your generation. Thus, I say to you today, the very freedom to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ is at stake with your generation. If you do not defend the right to believe what’s been taught through this book for the past 2,000 years about marriage, about gender, about sexuality, about the origin of life (creation not evolution), even down to what a baby is in the womb...if you don’t defend these truths, you will be left with believing what you’re told to believe by pagans and those who want to destroy anything Christian in this country. Dr. Al Mohler is right... He says:

“If we lose religious liberty in this nation...the liberty to believe and teach what’s in this book...if we refuse to stand for truth...all other liberties will be lost, one by one. No God, no truth. No truths, no liberty. No liberty, and nothing remains but the heel of someone’s boot.”
Dr. Al Mohler, *The Gathering Storm-Secularism, Culture and the Church*

You say, “Why are you sharing all of this?” Simply because we’re talking about the Trinity today and we’re talking about the Holy Spirit today. Last week we saw how Jesus described His relationship with the Father...in that He said: “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.” And you’ll remember, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John penned the word: “Father” 53 times in chapters 13-17 of his gospel. But, again, the leaders in England and even now, in many liberal seminaries here in America they want to remove the Word “Father” from the vernacular of Scripture. But, God gets to define who HE is, not us. Here’d the diagram of the Trinity we looked at last week:



Remember, God is ONE in essence, but exists in THREE persons. Today, we're going to see the third person of the Trinity...the Holy Spirit, because what Jesus is preparing His disciples to understand is that, YES, He is going way...but, the Holy Spirit is going to come take His place.

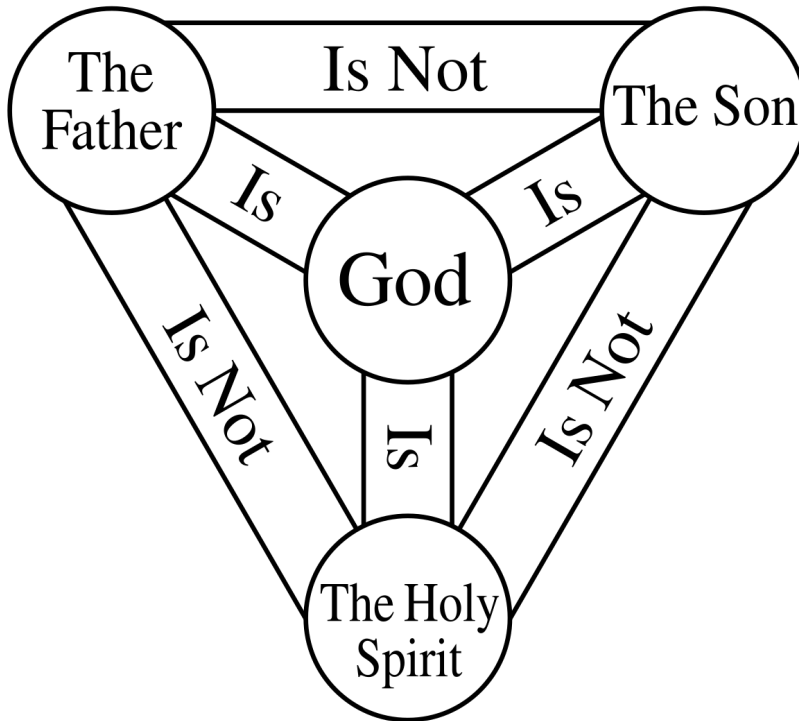
Now before we begin to look at our text in John 14, I want you to think with me about what we've already seen in our study of the Gospel of John when it comes to the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus in John 3 about being born again...He said, "...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." And then in John, chapter 4, Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman he said this:

John 4:23-24

²³ "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

So, Jesus has already spoken to a Pharisee and a Samaritan about the Holy Spirit and now He's in the upper room, the night before His death speaking of the Holy Spirit. Now the Holy Spirit is not a Force...this is not a Star Wars movie. He's not an "it." He's a He. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, defined as He, contrary to the Church of England.

Church, in Scripture the Holy Spirit has a mind, will and emotions. He thinks and knows (1 Corinthians 2:10). He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). He intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27). He makes decisions according to His will (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). The Holy Spirit is God in the third Person. See the bottom of the diagram again:



And as we ended our time in John 14 last week, we saw how Jesus said that we're going to do greater works (that's in scope) than He did and we can ask anything in His name, and He'll do it (and we learned it must be in the Father's will). So, Jesus is talking about actually doing "Kingdom work," just like He had been doing...the work of the Father and now Jesus, in talking about working for Him, (following Him), said this:

John 14:15

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Now jump down to verse 21...Jesus says it again.

John 14:21

²¹ "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

And Church, He says basically says the same thing again in verse 24...

John 14:24

²⁴ "Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

Church, it's crystal clear Jesus cares about what we do. Do you see that? "If you love me, keep my commandments...whoever does NOT love me does NOT keep my words." This is the idea that living for Jesus means we'll act like Jesus...that we'll seek to be like Him. J Vernon McGee said it this way, **"An undisciplined Christian cannot say that he loves the Lord, because it takes discipline to obey the commands of Jesus."** *Thru the Bible Commentary Series*, J. Vernon McGee

Think of it this way: When you love someone, you honor his or her name; and you honor them by how you treat them, right? And isn't that what Jesus modeled for us? He obeyed the Father.

John 15:10-11

¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

There's joy in obeying Jesus-I've said it 1000 times: It feels good to do good. Are you obeying Jesus?

1 John 2:3-6

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Jesus showed obedience to the Father. That was the true proof of His love. Jesus rejoiced in obeying His Father. It wasn't a burden to Him. Is it to you?

1 John 5:3

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Are His commands burdensome? They shouldn't be...not if you love Him. Do you remember after Peter denied Jesus three times how Jesus restored him, three times? Jesus said: "If you love Me?" What? **Feed my sheep**. In other words, don't just talk about loving me...go and bring people to me...disciple them. Do what I called you to do. And how do we do this? We need help!

John 14:16

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,¹⁷ to be with you forever,

Now remember, they're afraid in that upper room. Jesus has been talking about leaving, but here's where the comfort comes: He's going to send someone who will be with them FOREVER! He's going to send another Helper. The word: "Another" means: "another of the same kind." Think of it this way: Jesus has been their helper and comforter, but he's sending another one to take His place. This is the Trinity at work. The word "Helper" comes from the Greek word: Parakletos, which means "helper"...it literally means to "come along side," as on the battlefield. Like this...



The Holy Spirit is our Helper when life is hard...He carries us. He represents Jesus on this earth. He's who you feel in your Spirit as He bears witness with your spirit and groans (Romans 8).

The word Parakletos can also be translated": "Advocate." That's what happens in a courtroom, right. One who stands at your side and pleads your case. Did you know Jesus is in the courtroom of heaven advocating on your behalf, right now. We have help in heaven (Jesus) and on earth (Holy Spirit). Jesus described Him as the "Spirit of truth."

John 14:17

¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be^[a] in you.

I'm sure you've had the experience of talking to someone who's not a believer, trying to explain to them how the Lord helps you in your times of trouble...and they look at you like you four heads. They don't understand. And they can't. They can't understand the things of the Spirit, because they don't have the Spirit. They're not saved. They're spiritually dead and blind. But, when you're talking to another believer, they get it...because they can understand the things of the Spirit...because He dwells in you both. This is why Jesus said, "Don't worry..."

John 14:18

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Orphans...Jesus used that word because I believe He knew that's how they felt. They felt like they were being orphaned. They heard Jesus say: "I am leaving. I am leaving," and I believe panic set in. Remember, that's why Jesus said in verse 1, "Stop letting your hearts be troubled." But, think about it, all of their hopes were collapsing. They believed He was the Messiah and He is...but, He's not talking about setting up a kingdom...all He's talking about is leaving. They were thinking: "Are we going to be left hung out to dry?" No...Jesus says:

John 14:19-20

¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Yes, Jesus would be dead the next day by 3 pm and the world would see Him no longer. Remember, after He rose from the dead only believers would see Him. But, Jesus said, "IN THAT DAY, (vs 20). That day was Pentecost...when the Holy Spirit would come. And it's on that day at Pentecost, I'm convinced, those disciples came to a full understanding of what Jesus was saying, when the Spirit of God entered them...they go it... JESUS IS WITH ME THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT. We've not been left as orphans!

Then someone else at that table speaks up. We've heard from John, Peter, Philip, Thomas and now Thaddeus, a.k.a. nickname:

John 14:22

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Judas is really asking... "Why are you not setting up your kingdom? Why don't you show the world who you are?" Jesus answered Thaddeus the way He started, by saying, in essence, "Thaddeus, for now, it's all about love...that's the mark of my kingdom." See it...verse 23.

John 14:23

²³ Jesus answered 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."

Jesus would not go down the path of an earthly kingdom, yet. It's coming, but not yet. First, there had to be the death of the Messiah to secure salvation for those who will choose to love Jesus and keep His Word. For those who do...Jesus said, "We will come to him and make our home." The word home is more. We've seen it before. In my Father's house are many more...rooms. In other words, Jesus says: "We'll make our home in human hearts"...and that's done by way of the Holy Spirit. Jesus cements this promise by assuring them...

John 14:25-26

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still 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 that I have said to you."

I want to ask you as we begin to close: Do you believe all of this? Do you believe what you've heard today, or do you think it's a bunch of myths and fairy tales. Do you believe Jesus actually said these words in an upper room in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago? Do you believe He was telling the truth? Do you believe what we've just read in this book? I do...I believe it because I am convinced it is the Word of God. **Dr. Al Mohler, whom we talked about earlier,** President of Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY says this in his book, *The Gathering Storm-Secularism, Culture and the Church*
Over time, every culture conforms in general terms to one worldview, not to more than one. One morality, one fundamental picture of the world, one vision of humanity prevails... I believe that Christians bear the highest responsibility in this secular age.

Just consider what is entrusted to us. We know the true foundation of human dignity and human rights. We know why every human life at every age under every condition is precious. We know why truth is truth. We know that sin is what explains the brokenness of the world, and we know just how broken it is, starting with ourselves. We know why marriage can only be the union of a man and a woman, and we know why the family best be respected and protected by any sane civilization. We know why right is right and wrong is wrong. We know that life is not meaningless, and that right is not merely socially constructed and up for negotiation. We know that we are responsible creatures—that one day God will judge us for our every thought and deed.

Only the Christian worldview is sufficient to answer the demands of secularization, nor can any other worldview provide the framework for true human flourishing. Silence in this age is not an option—indeed, silence and retreat are tantamount to failure. Believers in Jesus Christ possess the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as the power of the Holy Spirit. Obedience to Christ demands our faithful stewardship, careful thinking, and wise engagement in the midst of this pressing crisis. Dr. Al Mohler, *The Gathering Storm-Secularism, Culture and the Church*

Amen Dr. Mohler... Do you believe it? Do you believe book was inspired by the Holy Spirit?