

FILLED IN

Systematic Theology - Lesson 16.1

The Work of the Holy Spirit (Part 2)

I. Review: The Spirit Gives New Life

- The Father plans redemption, the Son accomplishes redemption, and the Holy Spirit applies redemption.
- In regeneration, the Spirit enlightens the mind, liberates the will, cleanses the heart, and makes us alive.
- Before the Spirit gave life, we were spiritually **DEAD** (1).
- The repeated “I will” statements of Ezekiel 36 emphasize God’s **DIVINE** (2) action.
- We did not seek God because of any **MORAL** (3) superiority.
- God acted because He is rich in **MERCY** (4) (Ephesians 2:4-5).

(Slides 3-18)

II. Introduction: From Regeneration to Conviction

- Evangelism is proclaiming life in a spiritual graveyard; only the Holy Spirit can make sinners alive.
- Our responsibility is to share the gospel, love others, pray, and speak the **TRUTH** (5).
- When the Spirit gives a sinner a new **HEART** (6), the insensitive become responsive and sin is exposed.
- John 16:8 - “When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.”
- Conviction exposes the disease so that the sinner will seek the cure in Jesus Christ.

(Slides 19-23)

III. The Holy Spirit’s Work of Conviction

A. What Conviction Is - and Is Not

- Conviction means exposing guilt and convincing someone of the truth.
- Conviction is not merely a guilty conscience, shame, fear of **PUNISHMENT** (7), or knowledge of right and wrong.
- The Spirit does not create imaginary guilt; He awakens us to **GUILT** (8) that is already real.
- True conviction produces recognition, agreement with God, responsibility, repentance, and faith in Christ.
- Jesus identifies three areas of conviction: sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).

(Slides 24-36)

B. Conviction Demands a Response

- Acts 2:37 - hearers were pierced to the heart and asked, “What should we do?”
- Conviction demands a **RESPONSE** (9): repent, believe, and turn to the mercy of Christ.

(Slides 37-47)

- We cannot manufacture conviction. We speak the truth; the Spirit **CHANGES** (10) hearts.
- The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but should show **KINDNESS** (11), teach patiently, and correct gently.
- God grants repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 2:24-25).

C. Conviction Points to Christ

- The Spirit exposes **SIN** (12) in order to lead sinners to Christ.
- He reveals guilt, confirms God's righteousness, warns of judgment, uses the Word, and points to the Savior.
- Romans 10:17 - "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ."

The Spirit wounds in order to heal, exposes in order to forgive, and convicts in order to lead sinners to Christ.

IV. Union with Christ

A. A Living Union

- John 14:20 - "I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you."
- We are not merely near Christ; through the Spirit we are **UNITED** (13) to Christ.
- The Spirit reveals and glorifies Christ, gives faith, unites us to Christ, and applies His benefits.
- The Spirit **NEVER** (14) separates His work from the Son.
- Our union with Christ is spiritual and personal, effected by the indwelling Spirit.

B. Our New Identity "In Christ"

- In Christ we died with Him, were **BURIED** (15) with Him, were raised with Him, and are seated with Him.
- Sin **SEPARATES** (16) us from God; Christ brings us to God (Isaiah 59:2).
- The first Adam failed, but Jesus obeyed as the **SECOND** (17) Adam.
- Separation from Christ leaves us "in Adam"; union with Christ brings us into His righteousness and life.

C. United by the Spirit

- First Corinthians 12:13 teaches that we were baptized by one Spirit into one body.
- The Spirit unites us to Christ through **FAITH** (18).
- In Christ we are justified, adopted, made alive, sanctified, made new, and destined for **GLORY** (19).
- Ephesians 2:5 says God made us **ALIVE** (20) with Christ.

Every saving blessing comes through union with Christ.

D. Christ and His Church

- Christ is the Head of the church, and the church is His body.

(Slides 81-86)

- Scripture pictures union through the vine and branches, head and body, bridegroom and bride, and cornerstone and building.
- Union with Christ makes church membership and fellowship spiritual realities, not **OPTIONAL** (21) religious accessories.
- Union with Christ is more than a name, religious vocabulary, church attendance, ceremonies, or moral behavior.

E. Clothed with Christ

(Slides 87-90)

- In Christ, His righteousness covers us, His acceptance becomes ours, and His Father becomes our Father.
- His Spirit dwells within us, and His inheritance becomes our **HOPE** (22).
- Union changes our position and our life: accepted in Christ and transformed into His likeness.
- The Spirit applies Christ's righteousness and produces Christ's **CHARACTER** (23) in us.

V. Sanctification

A. Definition and Distinction

(Slides 91-100)

- Sanctification is the progressive work of God's Spirit transforming believers into the **LIKENESS** (24) of Christ.
- To sanctify means to make holy or reserve a life for the Lord.
- In justification, God **DECLARES** (25) us righteous; in sanctification, He progressively makes us holy.
- Justification changes our record; sanctification changes our life.

B. The Spirit Uses the Truth

(Slides 101-107)

- The Holy Spirit is the One **LEADING** (26) believers toward holiness.
- The Spirit transforms us through the **WORD** (27) of God: understood, believed, and obeyed.
- John 17:17 - "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

C. Divine Power and Human Responsibility

(Slides 108-120)

- New life and power for holiness come from **GOD** (28); growth is produced by grace.
- Second Peter 1:3 says God's divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness.
- God's grace does not eliminate **EFFORT** (29); grace empowers effort.
- We do not work for acceptance; we work from acceptance (2 Peter 1:5).
- Biblical sanctification is God powerfully working in us so that we **ACTIVELY** (30) pursue holiness.
- Avoid **self-reliance** ("I can make myself holy") and **passivity** ("God will change me without effort").
- Sanctification is lifelong, dependent, active, and progressive.

D. The Goal and Fruit of Sanctification

- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- The goal is not merely better behavior, religious activity, or greater knowledge. The goal is the likeness of **CHRIST** (31).
- Romans 8:29 says believers are being conformed to the image of God's Son.
- Second Corinthians 3:18 says we are being transformed from glory to glory by the Lord who is the Spirit.
- Behavior matters, but sanctification reaches beneath behavior to the **HEART** (32).

VI. Lesson Summary

- The Spirit gives new life, convicts sinners, and points them to Christ.
- The Spirit unites believers to Christ and to His body, the church.
- The Spirit progressively transforms believers into the likeness of Christ through the Word and active, grace-empowered obedience.

The Spirit makes the people who belong to Christ increasingly resemble the Christ to whom they belong.

Answer Key

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| 1. DEAD (Slide 10) | 17. SECOND (Slide 73) |
| 2. DIVINE (Slide 13) | 18. FAITH (Slide 76) |
| 3. MORAL (Slide 14) | 19. GLORY (Slide 77) |
| 4. MERCY (Slide 18) | 20. ALIVE (Slide 79) |
| 5. TRUTH (Slide 20) | 21. OPTIONAL (Slide 84) |
| 6. HEART (Slide 21) | 22. HOPE (Slide 88) |
| 7. PUNISHMENT (Slide 27) | 23. CHARACTER (Slide 89) |
| 8. GUILT (Slide 29) | 24. LIKENESS (Slide 92) |
| 9. RESPONSE (Slide 40) | 25. DECLARES (Slide 95) |
| 10. CHANGES (Slide 42) | 26. LEADING (Slide 101) |
| 11. KINDNESS (Slide 47) | 27. WORD (Slide 104) |
| 12. SIN (Slide 48) | 28. GOD (Slide 110) |
| 13. UNITED (Slide 54) | 29. EFFORT (Slide 112) |
| 14. NEVER (Slide 55) | 30. ACTIVELY (Slide 116) |
| 15. BURIED (Slide 58) | 31. CHRIST (Slide 122) |
| 16. SEPARATES (Slide 61) | 32. HEART (Slide 125) |

(Slides 121-125)