

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

LESSON 14

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WHAT IS SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY?

Theology is from TWO Greek Words:

1. Theos = “God”
2. Logos = “Word” or “Message”

The orderly arrangement of the study of God into logical, topical divisions

REVIEW

REVIEW

1. Doctrine of the Word
2. Existence & Attributes of God
3. Doctrine of Creation
4. Doctrine of Providence
5. Doctrine of Sin
6. Person & Work of Christ

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

- Importance of understanding the Holy Spirit
- How is He **REVEALED** in Scriptures
- Wrong understanding leads to worshiping a false god

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

R.C SPROUL

“The Holy Spirit is not an ‘it.’ He is not a force or mere power. He is God Himself, the third person of the Trinity.”

WORSHIP ONE GOD

- Christianity is **MONOTHEISTIC**
- Yet, scripture clearly shows us:
 - God the Father
 - God the Son
 - God the Holy Spirit

THE CHALLENGE

- We easily understand:
 - The Father & Son
- These are typical relationships
- Holy Spirit can feel:
 - Abstract
 - Distant & Impersonal

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Meaning of “Person”

MEANING OF “PERSON”

- We **DON'T** Mean:
 - Holy Spirit = Human Being
 - Holy Spirit = Physical Body
 - Holy Spirit became incarnate (Like Jesus)

MEANING OF “PERSON”

- We Do Mean, the Holy Spirit Has:
 - Intelligence
 - Understanding
 - Personal **EXISTENCE**
 - Will

MEANING OF “PERSON”

- We Do Mean, the Holy Spirit Is:
 - Living
 - Active
 - Personal

CHARLES SPURGEON

“The Holy Spirit is a divine person to be known.”

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Distinct – YET One God

DISTINCT –YET ONE GOD

- Holy Spirit Is:
 - One with the Father and the Son
 - Yet personally DISTINCT from them

ROMANS 8:27

²⁷ “And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

DISTINCT –YET ONE GOD

- The Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf **BEFORE** the father
- The Spirit personally acts
- The Spirit communicates
- The Spirit is distinct from the Father

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

False Views

FALSE VIEW: MODALISM

- Modalism teaches:
 - God is only ONE Person
 - God appears in different "MODES"
- Father → Old Testament
- Son → Gospels
- Spirit → After Pentecost

FALSE VIEW: MODALISM

- The Problem: Scripture SHOWS the trinity interacting with one another
- Jesus praying to the Father
- The Spirit descending at Jesus' baptism
- The Father speaking from heaven

FALSE VIEW: MODALISM

- Modalism attempts to remove the **MYSTERY** of the Trinity instead of submitting to Scripture.
- “My earthly explanation works better for me than what the scriptures tell me.”

FALSE VIEW: AN “ENERGY”

- Some early church claimed the Holy Spirit was:
 - An essence
 - A force
 - An influence
 - Divine energy – a thought

FALSE VIEW: AN “ENERGY”

- Scripture **TEACHES** the Holy Spirit has:
 - A distinct identity
 - Personality
 - Personal activity
- Must be a person, not a force/power

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Personal Pronouns

ACTS 10:9-20

¹⁹ “While Peter was thinking about the vision, the Spirit told him, ‘Three men are here looking for you. ²⁰ Get up, go downstairs, and go with them with no doubts at all, because I have sent them.’”

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

- The Holy Spirit:
 - Speaks, commands
 - Refers to HIMSELF as “I”
 - Scripture consistently uses:
 - He, Him
 - Himself
- Spirit's Personhood
-

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Personal Properties

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-11

⁸ “to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, ⁹ to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-11

¹⁰ “to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-11

¹¹ “One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.

PERSONAL PROPERTIES

- The Holy SPIRIT Posses:
 - Understanding
 - Wisdom
 - Will
 - Purpose

JOHN 14:16

¹⁶ “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.”

[Counselor]

[Helper - Advocate]

[Parakletos – Assistant]

PERSONAL PROPERTIES

- Jesus calls the Holy Spirit
 - The comforter
 - Not merely “Comfort” itself
- Spirit’s ministry is PERSONAL and relational

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Personal Activities

PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

- Holy Spirit – Reveals, Teaches, Comforts, Counsels, Helps, Loves
- Holy Spirit can be:
 - Grieved
 - Lied To
 - Blasphemed

PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

- A force cannot:
 - Love
 - Teach
 - Be grieved
- This is only by a **PERSON**

PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Why this matters

WHY IT MATTERS

- The Holy Spirit is NOT:
 - Cold
 - Distant
 - Impersonal

WHY IT MATTERS

- Because He is a person, we can:
 - Know Him
 - Be led by Him
 - Be LOVED by Him
 - Be purified by Him
 - Be indwelt by Him

J.C. RYLE

“Without the Holy Spirit there would be no gospel faith, no holiness, and no heaven.”

- The Christian life is relational
- The Holy Spirit works in believers personally

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

SCRIPTURE TEACHES

- The Holy Spirit is not merely:
 - A Helper or force
 - An angelic being
- The Holy Spirit is:
 - Fully God
 - Equal with the Father & Son

TWO MAJOR TRUTHS

- Scripture identifies the Spirit as God
- The Spirit possess DIVINE attribute

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

Scripture identifies Him as God

ACTS 5:1-4

¹ “But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. ² However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife’s knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

ACTS 5:1-4

³ “ ‘Ananias,’ Peter asked, ‘why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land?’

ACTS 5:1-4

4 “ ‘Wasn’t it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn’t it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God.’”

HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

- Peter confronts Ananias: “You have lied to the Holy Spirit.”
- Peter says: “You have not lied to men but to God.”
- Lying to the Holy Spirit = lying TO God

HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

- The Holy Spirit is not less than God the Father or God the Son

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

Spirit possesses divine attributes

HEBREWS 9:14

¹⁴ “how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?”

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

- Eternal

PSALM 139:7-10

⁷ “Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”

⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

PSALM 139:7-10

⁹ “If I fly on the wings of the dawn
and settle down on the western
horizon,

¹⁰ even there your hand will lead me;
your right hand will hold on to me.”

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

- Eternal
- Omnipresent (PRESENT everywhere)

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-11

¹⁰ “Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-11

¹¹ “For who knows a person’s thoughts except his spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

- Eternal
- Omnipresent (Present everywhere)
- Omniscient (All-knowing)
- The Holy Spirit possesses attributes that only belong to God.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

“The Holy Spirit possesses all the perfections of deity.”

-A. W. Pink

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The wonder of the Holy Spirit

WONDER OF THE SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is:
 - Holy, Transcendent, Set apart
- Yet He is also:
 - Personal, Near, Relational

WONDER OF THE SPIRIT

- Because the Holy Spirit is God, He possesses:
 - Divine WISDOM
 - Divine presence
 - Divine power

WONDER OF THE SPIRIT

- Need wisdom? → He is omniscient
- Feeling alone? → He is omnipresent
- Feeling weak? → His power is limitless.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

Why this foundation matters?

THE FOUNDATION MATTERS

- Holy Spirit = a person = Fully God
- Without this truth, the work of the Holy Spirit loses its significance

WHY THIS MATTERS

- The One who:
 - Leads us
 - Comforts us
 - Indwells us
 - Sanctifies us
- ...is none other than **GOD** Himself.

WHY THIS MATTERS

J.I. Packer emphasized that rightly understanding the Holy Spirit reshapes how we understand the entire Christian life.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The Trinity

THE TRINITY

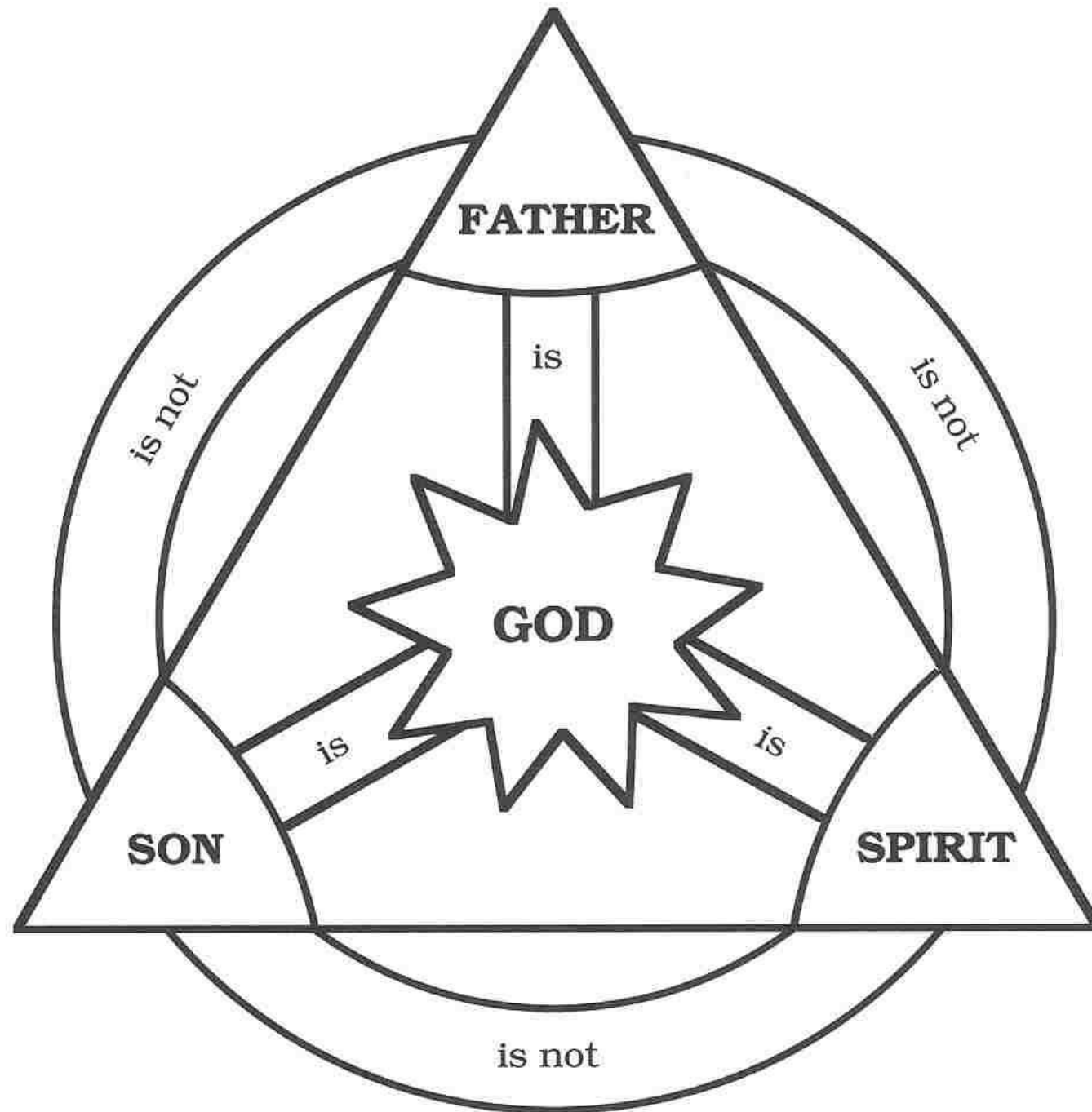
- There is One God
- Existing eternally in Three persons:
 - The Father
 - The Son
 - The Holy Spirit

THE TRINITY

- The Father is fully God
- The Son is fully God
- The Holy Spirit is fully God
- YET
 - There are **NOT** three Gods
 - Only one God

THE TRINITY

- The Trinity is:
 - Mysterious
 - Beyond human reason to discover
 - Clearly revealed in scripture
 - There are no analogies to it in Nature



TRINITY AT JESUS' BAPTISM

MATTHEW 3:16-17

¹⁶ “When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.

MATTHEW 3:16-17

¹⁷ “And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.’”

TRINITY AT JESUS' BAPTISM

- Father speaks from heaven
- Son is baptized
- Spirit DESCENDS like a dove
- All three are not in different “Modes”
- Clearest demonstration of the Trinity in all of scripture

THE TRINITY

- The Father's dealings with man are generally through the Son by the Holy Spirit.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

MATTHEW 28:19

¹⁹ “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

THE GREAT COMMISSION

- Jesus says:
 - NAME (SINGULAR)
 - Not Names (Plural)
- This shows:
 - Unity in essence
 - Distinction in person

“The Holy Spirit, then, is fully God. He is not one-third God, but fully God. Yet, it is not the Spirit alone who is fully God, but he eternally exists along with the Father and the Son, each of whom also possesses fully the identically same, undivided, divine nature...

“What distinguishes the Spirit from the Father and the Son is not the divine nature...what distinguishes the Spirit is his particular role as the Holy Spirit in relation to the Father and to the Son and the relationships that he has with each of them.”

- B.B. Warfield

B.B. WARFIELD

- One divine name:
 - Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is:
 - Equal with the Father and Son
 - Fully God

B.B. WARFIELD

- Distinguishing attribute:
 - Not a **DIFFERENT** nature
 - But a distinct role and relationship with in the Trinity

“The doctrine of the Trinity is not irrational – it is simply beyond our full comprehension.”

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

The coming of the Spirit is better

SOMETHING BETTER

- Jesus' final teaching before the

CROSS:

- John 14-16
- The Holy Spirit
- The Helper
- The Spirit of Truth

JOHN 16:7

⁷ “Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you.”

SOMETHING BETTER

- The disciples:
 - Walked with Jesus
 - Learned FROM Jesus
 - Served beside Jesus
 - Loved Jesus
- Now He's leaving

JOHN 15:26-27

²⁶ “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father – he will testify about me. ²⁷ You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

CONCLUSION

The Spirit bears witness

SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS

- Jesus calls the spirit:
 - The helper
 - Spirit of truth
- Spirit's ministry
 - Bear witness about Christ
 - Make Christ known and glorified

SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS

- Disciples bear witness: (v 27)
 - “You have been with me from the beginning.”
- The Holy Spirit bears witness:
 - The eternal companion of Christ

SPIRIT'S PRESENCE

- Christ's Conception
- Christ's Baptism
- Christ's Temptation
- Christ's Ministry
- Christ's Death
- Christ's Resurrection & Ascension

SPIRIT'S PRESENCE

- Entire ministry of Jesus unfolded in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

WHY THE SPIRIT IS BETTER?

- Holy Spirit: The Spirit of Christ who makes Christ known.
- To have the Spirit is:
 - To KNOW Christ
 - To experience Christ's presence
 - To fellowship with Christ

WHY THE SPIRIT IS BETTER?

- Through the Spirit, Jesus is no longer:
 - Limited by geography
 - Limited by distance
 - Limited by physical presence
- The Holy Spirit manifests Christ's **PRESENCE** to believers everywhere

CONCLUSION

The fellowship of the Trinity

JOHN 17:24

²⁶ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world’s foundation.”

FELLOWSHIP OF THE TRINITY

- Before creation – Trinity existed in perfect fellowship, joy & love
- Believers are loved “even as” the Father loved the Son
- We are invited to FELLOWSHIP, commune, and love God

CONCLUSION

The Spirit of adoption

ROMANS 8:15-16

¹⁵ “For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

SPIRIT OF ADOPTION

- Holy Spirit:
 - Assures believers
 - Testifies we belong to God
 - Produces confidence in God as Father

SPIRIT OF ADOPTION

ADOPTION is “the highest privilege of the gospel.” – J.I. Packer