

The Mystery of the Spirit

The Deity of the Spirit

Lecture 2

Holy Spirit – an Essential Study

According to Millard Erickson why is the Holy Spirit an essential study today?¹

1. The Holy Spirit is the point at which the Trinity first becomes _____ to the believer.
2. We live in the period in which the Holy Spirit's work is more _____ than that of the other members of the Trinity.
3. Our culture stresses the _____, and it is primarily through the Holy Spirit that we _____ God.

Holy Spirit – a Difficult Study

As essential as it is to know the Holy Spirit, it is also difficult. There are several reasons why.

1. The Bible reveals much more about the Father and the Son than it does the Holy Spirit. (John 16:14; Galatians 4:6)

Why was the *filioque* clause ("and from the Son") so controversial in Church History leading to the Great Schism in 1054?

Is it wrong to say the Spirit was sent by the Son? (John 15:26; 16:7; compare to 14:16, 26)

2. The Holy Spirit is difficult to conceptualise precisely because He is a Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit is misrepresented by non-Christian and pseudo-Christian religions (who view Him to be an impersonal force), and by certain segments of Christianity.

What modern day extreme is related to the second century Arian heresy?

What modern day extreme is related to second century Montanism?

¹ Millard Erickson, **Christian Theology**, p. 846.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

How do we know that the Holy Spirit is a person? (Jude 20-21; 1 Peter 1:2)

The Holy Spirit is God

How do we know that the Holy Spirit is God?

Statements

The first indication is the names that are used in reference to the Holy Spirit.

God

(Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20)

Lord

(2 Corinthians 3:17)

Attributes

There are certain characteristics which only God possesses. The Holy Spirit is said to possess these same characteristics, therefore, He must be God.

Omniscience

(Isaiah 40:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; John 16:13)

Omnipresence

(Psalm 139:7)

Omnipotence

(Romans 15:19)

Creator

(Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalm 104:30)

Eternal

(Hebrews 9:14)

Truth

(John 16:13)

Salvation

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8-11)

The Holy Spirit regenerates to salvation (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5)

The Holy Spirit baptises (1 Corinthians 12:13)

The Holy Spirit seals believers (Ephesians 1:13-14)

The Holy Spirit raises the dead (Romans 8:11)

Inspires Scripture

(2 Peter 1:21)

Implications

Since the Holy Spirit is entitled to the names of God and exercises the attributes of God, we can be sure He is indeed God.

This has a few implications for our own relationship to God.

1. Because the Holy Spirit is a person, we should _____.
2. Because the Holy Spirit is God, it is appropriate for us to _____.
3. Because the Holy Spirit indwells us, God could not be any closer to us than He is.