

Thinking Clearly about the Holy Spirit

Introduction

John 14:15-18: "If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

First, the Holy Spirit is clearly DIVINE

This 'Trinitarian' scenario shows that the Spirit is divine

Notice also that the word Counsellor is a TITLE

This is the word Parakletos, a legal term - one who comes alongside us to give us help, to defend us

This word is also used of Jesus in 1 John 2.1

Second, the Holy Spirit is clearly DISTINCT

Jesus says that God will give ANOTHER Counsellor

The word 'another' means 'someone else like me'

Just as Jesus was an Advocate or Comforter, so the Spirit will be an Advocate or Comforter.

Just as the Father gave Jesus, so the Father will give the Holy Spirit

Third, the Holy Spirit is clearly PERSONAL

John 16:13: When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit as a person who will guide you into all truth.

Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption".

So it's abundantly clear that we can only grieve someone who is personal.

The Holy Spirit is personal not impersonal,

Fourthly, the Holy Spirit is clearly PERMANENT

Jesus was about to leave but the Spirit will be with them FOREVER

In the OT, the anointing of the Spirit were always transient

But after Pentecost the followers of Jesus will be permanently anointed

Finally, the Holy Spirit is clearly PROMISED

The Holy Spirit will live in the hearts of those who love Jesus

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to all who love and obey him

Questions:

What should the place of the Holy Spirit be in our church and worship?

Which of the five aspects of the Holy Spirit is most important to you and why?

How does Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us forever affect your life?

Next time we'll consider the question, why do I need the Holy Spirit?