Foundations

Session 5: Who is the Holy Spirit? What is the Trinity?

Previously, we learned that God, who is holy and perfect, is approachable and knowable. How does God make it possible for human beings, who are sinful, to have a personal relationship with Him? Additionally, we learned that Jesus Christ, God the Son, is the only way to the Father.

Although there are many well known facts about Jesus, there may be some who still do not know who Jesus really is. The Bible provides titles for Jesus that help us understand who He really is.

- Son of God - Matthew 3:17, 17:5 – Jesus is the clear revelation of God
- Son of Man - Matthew 8:20, 9:6, 11:19 – Jesus understands the experience of being human
- Lord - John 20:28, Acts 2:36 – Jesus is equal to God and above all creator
- Messiah - Matthew 16:16, John 6:69 – Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophesies about the Messiah

To be the only way to the Father, Jesus had to be fully human.

- Hebrews 2:17 - Jesus had to be fully human to bear the penalty of Man's sin
- Hebrews 4:15 - Jesus had to be fully human to be a sympathetic High Priest
- 1 Peter2:21-23 - Jesus had to be fully human to be an example and a help to believers to live the Christian life

To be the only way to the Father, Jesus had to be fully God.

- Hebrews 7:25-26 - Jesus had to be fully God to be a perfect high priest and mediator between God and man
- Hebrews 10:12 - Jesus had to be fully God to be a perfect sacrifice to completely deal with the problem of sin

Once sin entered the world, God, who is holy and just, could not allow sin to go unpunished. Since Jesus was the perfect Man, His sacrificial death was necessary to pay the penalty for an infinite number of sin.

What happens now that human beings can be free from sin because of the sacrifice of Jesus? Is there any help to live this Christian life? In John 14:16-17, Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that he may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." Who is this other Helper – the Spirit of truth? How does the Holy Spirit relate to God and Jesus? In this session, we discuss and dialogue about the character and attributes of the Holy Spirt, concluding with the Trinity

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- State key descriptions of the Holy Spirit
- Identify the role of the Holy Spirit

- Describe key elements of the Trinity

1. Read John 14. How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit?

2. What evidence from John 14 shows that the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or energy?

3. What personal characteristics are ascribed to the Holy Spirit from the following verses?

Romans 8:26

Romans 8:27

Bonus: Ephesians 4:30

Bonus: Revelation 2:7

4. Read John 16:5-15. How does the Holy Spirit convict or help reveal the truth about sin, righteousness and judgment?

5. What do the following verses say about the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit?

John 16:13

1 Corinthians 6:11

2 Corinthians 3:18

Ephesians 1:13-14

6. Which aspect of the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit is most meaningful to you?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-25, what do these verses say about the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts?

8. How do the following verses provide evidence for the Trinity?

Matthew 3:16-17

Matthew 28:19

John 15:26

2 Corinthians 13:14

9. Based on the class session, notes, and your personal study, what has encouraged or challenged you from this session?

Additional Resources:

Living Water by Chuck Smith

The Spirit of Christ by Andrew Murray

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit by R. A. Torrey