

The Personhood and Deity of the Holy Spirit

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit..” 2 Cor 3:18

What do the Scriptures principally teach?

The Holy Spirit is a person.

Personal pronouns used

- Rom 8:11; John 14:26; Rom 8:16, 26

Physical appearance

- Dove (Matt 3:16, 10:16)
- Tongues of fire (Matt 3:11; Acts 2:3; Isa 6:6-7)

Personal actions

- Teaches (John 14:26; Luke 12:12)
- Intercedes (Rom 8:26)
- Leads (Matt 4:1)
- Gives life (John 6:63)
- Inspires (1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Tim 3:16)
- Speaks (2 Sam 23:2; Acts 8:29, 10:19, 11:12; Heb 3: 7-9)

Personal interactions

- Grieved (Isa 63:10, Eph 4:30)
- Resisted (Acts 7:51)
- Tempted/ Tested (Acts 5:9)
- Blasphemed (Mark 3:29)

Distinguished from his gifts (1 Cor 12:11)

The Holy Spirit is God.

Explicitly called God

- Acts 5:3,4; 1 Cor 3:16; Isa 6:9
- Acts 28: 25-26 vs. 2 Sam 23:2-3
- Num 12:6 vs. 2 Peter 1:21

Possesses Divine attributes

- Omnipotence (1 Cor 12:6, 9-11)
- Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7)
- Omniscience (1 Cor 2:10-11)
- Eternality (Hew 9:14)

Divine works ascribed to the Spirit.

- Creation (Psalm 33:6)
- Conservation (Psalm 104:30)
- Working miracles (Matt 12:28)
- Raising the dead (Rom. 8:11)
- Inspiring the prophets (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.)

Divine worship is due unto Him.

- Baptized in his name (Matt. 28:19)
- We are to pray to him. (2 Cor.13:14; Acts 4:23, 25 compare 2 Sam. 23:2)

The Holy Spirit is truly God in essence, but also distinct from both the Father and the Son; attributes are shared, properties are distinguished.

What is the filioque clause and why is it important?

The Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ as well as of the Father; the Spirit is sent by Christ as well as by the Father.

Application:

1. As the Son was sent to glorify the Father, so the Spirit was sent to magnify both the Son and the Father, so we are to glorify the Spirit by our dependence upon Him.
2. We must have communion with the Spirit as a distinct person. For, it is He who indwells us, knows our hearts, and reveals to us the mind of Christ. (Gal 5:25, 1 Cor 2:11-16)