

Thirsty: Person

Objectives: We want to learn how properly view the Holy Spirit, having personhood and as an equal member, with specific roles, of the triune God.

Launch

Which image do you think best represents people's general understanding of the Holy Spirit? (*choose either the Soularium images or imaging the list of images*)

- Soularium image #'s 04,10,13,18,19,25,44,45,50,60 or
- Imagine these images
 - Power outlet
 - Person in meditation
 - The galaxy
 - Light sabre
 - Rainbow
 - An angel
 - Windmill
 - Dove
- In your mind, which images do a lousy job of representing the Holy Spirit's identity? Why?
- Which image best represents the Holy Spirit to you? Why that image?

Explore

Who is the Spirit?

If you had to come up with your own image, what would it be? What do you envision when you think about the Holy Spirit?

Why can it be hard to describe the Holy Spirit?

Read John 16:5-15

- What do you learn about the Holy Spirit?
- Why was He sent?
- Why has sorrow filled the hearts of the disciples? (v6)
- Why should the sending of the Holy Spirit comfort the disciples?
- What is the Spirit's relationship with
 - Christians?
 - The world?
 - Jesus?

The Person of the Spirit

Personhood is not a matter of having feet or eyebrows but rather of having attributes of being such as intellect, agency (the ability to act), will, emotion, and identity.

- Look up these passages. What other aspects of personhood is described?
 - **Romans 15:30** (*love-emotion*)
 - **1 Corinthians 2:10** (*searches and knows everything*)
 - **Ephesians 4:30** (*can be grieved*)
- How should understanding that the Holy Spirit has personhood impact your view of who the Spirit is?

The Trinity

While the identity of the Holy Spirit is not fully revealed until the New Testament, there are inferences about him in Old Testament passages.

Read Genesis 1:26-27.

- What Holy Spirit inferences do you see in these opening verses of Scripture?
- How would you clarify the Trinity to someone who thinks Christians believe in three gods? (I don't know is an ok answer at this point)

*While the term "Trinity" is never used in Scripture, the personhood and deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are clearly taught. If we were to summarize, it would be as follows: **God is three distinct persons; each person is fully God; there is one God.***

- What illustrations have you heard to explain the concept of the Trinity?

salvation?

The greatest minds of the last two thousand years have generally conceded that while we can state these three truths with clarity, like the mathematical concept of a fourth spatial dimension or the mystery of human consciousness, the Trinity is beyond our human capacity to perceive or envision.

Incomprehensible as it may be, there has been no shortage of illustrations offered over the years that attempt to explain the Trinity. To a degree, they are all helpful. But, to a degree, they are all deficient. Below are some of the better known of the illustrations.

Look at each:

- Water illustrates the Trinity in that it can manifest itself in three forms: liquid, vapor, and ice.
- An egg illustrates the Trinity in that it is made up of three constituent parts: shell, egg white, and yolk.
- A plant illustrates the Trinity, with the Father as the root, the Son as the shoot that breaks forth into the world, and the Spirit as that which spreads beauty and fragrance.

- What does each analogy try to communicate? Where does each analogy fail?
- As these illustrations are not all equal in their descriptive insight, which do you find most helpful?

Roles of the Spirit

How all three persons comprise one God may not be as clear as we'd like. What is clear is that the doctrine of the Trinity is true and that each member of the Trinity plays a distinct role. Here are some examples. (There are more than these, but these are to initially observe that there are roles)

Read 1 Peter 1:2

- According to this passage, what specific role does the Holy Spirit play in our

Read Titus 2:13

- According to the passage, in what way does the Holy Spirit bring glory to Jesus?

Apply

Since we've touched on many aspects of who the Holy Spirit is, let's try to process the content:

- How have you viewed the Spirit in the past? Has this view changed over time or through this study? If so, how?
- What are aspects of the Holy Spirit that you would like to learn more about?

Glance back at John 16

- How does this truth about the Holy Spirit help satisfy your thirst the way God intended?
- Who is one person that you could comfort or encourage by talking about who the Holy Spirit is?