

Sermon Outline

GOD THE SPIRIT WHO TRANSFORMS US | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Romans 8:26–30

Delighting in the Trinity:

(1) When $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$...

(2) God the Father who loves us ...

(3) God the Son who saves us ...

1. The Spirit points us to the Son

Jn 14:25 All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But **the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name**, will *teach you all things* and will *remind you of everything I have said to you*. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Jn 15:26 When **the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father –the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father**—he will *testify about me*.

Jn 16:12 I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 **He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you**. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.

Jn 17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. **Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.**”

The Spirit is Christ-glorifying and self-effacing (“look at Him, don’t look at me!”)

The Athanasian Creed

Nothing in this trinity is before or after, nothing is greater or smaller; in their entirety the three persons are coeternal and coequal with each other. So in everything, as was said earlier, we must worship their trinity in their unity and their unity in their trinity.

2. The Spirit unites us to the Son

The doctrine of “union with Christ”

“The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself ... as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us.” (John Calvin, Institutes, Book 3.1.1)

Rom 8:9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.** 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

3. The Spirit makes us more like the Son

Rom 8:26 In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 **For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

“Being conformed to the image of His Son” = “become more like Jesus”

- “in the image of God He created them” (Gen 1)

The Spirit is more interested in changing our character than altering our circumstances

- “God the Spirit who transforms us” vs. “God the Spirit who guides us”

“In ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him ...”

Q. Will you pray character-changing prayers (not just circumstance-altering ones)?

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.