

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 19 – The Holy Spirit & Christian Unity

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Introduction

“I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. (John 17:11)

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. (John 17:20-23)

Christian harmony is not based on the externals of the flesh but the internals and eternal of the Spirit in the inner person. We must look beyond the elements of our first birth—race, color, abilities, etc.—and build our fellowship on the essentials of our new birth. (John 3:5-6)

Have you ever considered that unity as integral part of the work of the Holy Spirit?

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. (Philippians 2:1-2)

We are connected not by friendships or even camaraderie; our fellowship is so much more than that. It is not done by natural means meaning by human determination and efforts – but supernaturally by the indwelling Holy Spirit who is the divine nature in every child of God.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:3-8)

Unity is the result of being united with Christ; being comforted by His love; having fellowship with the Holy Spirit; being tender and compassionate doing nothing out selfishness considering others better than yourselves; and not looking only to our own interests by the interest of others. When are walking in the Spirit we are going to not be mean, petty, ugly, demeaning, or condemning others who we disagree with? Instead we will obey:

Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. (Romans 14:1)

Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. (Romans 14:13-19)

Fellowship With The Holy Spirit

Having fellowship with the Spirit is unexplored territory for most of us. What does the bible teach about our relationship with the Holy Spirit? Where does the fellowship with the Holy Spirit begin? What does it mean? How does it impact unity? How do we get the mind of Christ?

for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, (Romans 8:13-16)

The Holy Spirit is common denominator in overcoming all personality, racial, economic, social, and doctrinal differences. He does that by creating the "family experience" that results from being children of God (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

Fellowship with God and with God's children is based on the same thing – walking in the light, which means that we live as Jesus lived; we think and value what Jesus thought and valued; we pray as Jesus prayed, talk as Jesus talked, and we love as Jesus loved.

One of the things that most impresses the world is the way Christians love each other and live together in harmony. The lost world cannot see God, but they can see Christians; and what they see in us is what they will believe about God. If they see love and unity, they will believe that God is love. If they see hatred and division, they will reject the message of the Gospel.