



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Don't Sever the Holy Spirit from the Son!

Bible Reading: John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; 20:22; Acts 2:33

?Bible Reading: (John 15:26)

I. Which Spirit? – the Holy Spirit or Other Spirits?

A. The Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 20:22; Mt. 28:19)

B. Other Spirits (1 Jn. 4:1-3, 6; 1 Cor. 2:12)

II. Who sends & Breathes/Pours out the Spirit? How close is the Spirit-Son Link?

A. Who Sends the Spirit? 4 passages: Jn. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7

B. Who Breathes/Pours out the Spirit? 2 passages: Jn. 20:22; Acts 2:33

C. The Holy Spirit is closely linked to Jesus, God's Son

III. The Spirit's Procession – in Scripture & the Creeds

A. The Spirit 'proceeds' (Jn. 15:26 cf. Rev. 21:1)

B. "Proceeding" (Jn. 15:26) refers to the Spirit's Mission in time

IV. East Vs. West: The Spirit's Procession in the Creeds

A. The Holy Spirit in the Historical Creeds:

1. The Nicene Creed (325 AD) "I believe in the Holy Spirit."

2. The Nicene-Constantinople Creed (381 AD)

• "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. Who proceeds from the Father..."

? Depicted in Irenaeus' 'Two Hands of God'

3. The Nicene-Constantinople Creed as later taught/recited in the West (Not the East)

• "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son..."

B. Irenaeus' 'Two Hands' Metaphor Inadequate

V. Severing the Spirit & Son to accommodate World Religions

"Proposals...that separate...the works of the Son & the Spirit don't have biblical or theological warrant"–Todd

Miles

A. Abandoning Filioque – Severing Son & Spirit

? “If the Spirit of God proceeds from the Father only, then... this same Spirit may relate adherents of other faiths [Hindu, Buddhist, Islam] to the Father without the need of Christ...” –Graham Cole

B. Misuse of Irenaeus' 'Two Hands' Metaphor

? “Tendency.... to view the Spirit as working ... apart from the... Christian faith. When the Spirit is no longer tied to Christ, inter-religious dialogue takes on a new & disturbing significance.” –Donald Bloesch

C. Five Examples:

1. Georg Khodr (1923-) Eastern Orthodox

2. Peter C. Phan (1943-) Roman Catholic, Georgetown U., Washington DC., USA

3. Jacques Dupuis (1923-2004) Catholic/Jesuit

4. Clark Pinnock (1937-2010) “Post-conservative Christian;” Prof. McMaster Divinity College.

5. Amos Yong (1965-) Pentecostal; Dean of Theology, Fuller Seminary, Ca., USA

D. Consequences of Severing the Spirit & the Son

1. Abandon the filioque; bypass the Son; Religions directly access God (cf. Jn. 14:6)

• “I am the way, the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”—Jesus (Jn. 14:6)

• “Some... theologians... ‘abandon filioque because it opens the door to... other world religions, providing... a basis... in them a valid spiritual relationship to God that bypasses Jesus’.” –Thomas Snail

2. Divorce the Spirit & Son; direct access to God via the Spirit, bypassing Christ (cf. Jn. 14:6)

3. Spirit promoted from Trinity's 3rd Person to 1st (cf. Matt. 28:19)

4. Allegedly, the Holy Spirit saves people apart from Faith in Jesus Christ (cf. Acts 4:12)

• “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

5. The ‘Universal Spirit’ vs. the ‘Spirit of Jesus Christ’ (Jn. 8:39)

6. The Divine Spirit Or demonic spirits? (1 Jn. 4:1-6)

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