

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #5

C. The Spirit is recognized as God.

Typically, when people think of the Holy Spirit, they think of Him in a distorted manner. They tend to either deny His personality reducing Him to a force or a concept. Or they deny His deity, typically absorbing Him into the Father and thus denying His existence as a separate person of the Godhead.

1. The Bible asserts the deity of each person in the Godhead, and unequivocally declares—that the Holy Spirit is ____.
2. While the scope of this handout is to demonstrate the Spirit is God, we need to ask, “Why do ____ refer to the Holy Spirit as a Person?”
3. The Spirit is a Person with all of the attributes of personality, which is why Christ never used “____” when referring to God the Holy Spirit.
4. In John chapters 14, 15 & 16, Christ spoke of the Holy Spirit as “**He**” revealing to us that He is _____ a force or a thing, but a Person.
5. In John 15:26 Jesus said, “**When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.**”
6. The pronoun “**He**” in this verse is very significant because it is a “**masculine pronoun**” in the original Greek, while the word “**Spirit**” is a “**neuter**” _____.
7. Normally in Greek & in other case languages around the world, a pronoun — must _____ with the noun — that it modifies.
8. For example, if there is a masculine noun being used, then a masculine pronoun is used to modify a given _____.
9. Even in English, though not nearly as precise a language as Greek, we follow the same basic _____ of grammar.
10. If I said, “**John has a book, and he loves the book,**” very clearly the pronoun “**he**” refers ___ John.
11. We would not say, “**John has a book, and it loves the book,**” but rather — we would say, “**____ loves the book.**”
12. If I said, “**The book is red, and it is a bright red**” — once again the identity of the pronoun “**it**” clearly refers _____ the book!

13. The word “**Spirit**” is a “**neuter noun**” in Greek & so typically you would use a “**neuter pronoun**” to modify that _____.
14. However, the word “**Spirit**” is modified in this verse with a masculine pronoun, breaking the _____ of Greek grammar & not by accident.
15. God the Son ____ emphasizing the “**Personhood**” of the Holy Spirit.
16. For an *in-depth* study on the *Personhood of the Spirit* you might want to consider the course in the *Institute of Biblical Studies* __ Pneumatology.
17. There we examine how the Spirit’s attributes confirm _____ personality.
18. In Scripture, He is seen as displaying **intellect** (1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Romans 8:27), **emotion** (Romans 5:5; Romans 15:30 Ephesians 4:30) _____ **will** (Acts 16:6; Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 12:11).
19. Since the Holy Spirit — has the attributes of a person — and has the ministries — that only a person can have — as we will see in our next handout—we should relate to Him as a _____.
20. I hope when you think of the Holy Spirit, that you will not think of Him _____ an **influence**, or as a **force**, or a **floating fog**, or as a **cloud**, or as a **ghost**, or as a **bird**, or as some **empowerment**, like energy in a battery.
21. He is _____ of these — He is a Person — He is our **Friend** — He is our **Teacher** & He is the **One** who makes Jesus Christ real to us in our lives.
22. It is important that we understand *the Personhood of the Spirit* because He is the Person who regenerates us — who bears testimony to us that we are Christ’s & He is the One who is heart-broken when we _____.
23. When you understand the Spirit is a Person, then you will interact with Him in that way — realizing how sacred your own person has become _____ His divine presence (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

24. In understanding—the Spirit is a Person—you _____ be grateful to Him, often thanking Him that He is the One securing you for Heaven in spite of all of your inconsistencies (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 2 Corinthians 5:5).

25. When you understand the Spirit is a Person, you will acknowledge that He is the One strengthening you to live a godly life & you will give Him the credit & _____ take it yourself (John 7:37-39; 14:16-18; Gal. 5:16).

26. When you understand that the Spirit is a Person, you will acknowledge that He alone can produce spiritual life in and through you, and that anything of any eternal value, must have its _____ in the Spirit.

63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life (John 6:63).

4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, 6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3:4–6).

27. The Holy Spirit is not a **force** that you use, or some **energy source** for your own personal gain, He is a **Person** who is to be submitted to and the One who wants to glorify Christ through _____ (John 16:14).

14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

28. However, demonstrating the personality of the Holy Spirit does _____ include the proof that He is co-eternal & equal with the Father & Son.

29. While certainly the reverse is true, because if you can prove His Deity, since God is a person — then He _____ be a person — as God is.

30. Throughout the history of the Christian Church, both the personality and the _____ of the Holy Spirit — have gone hand in hand.

31. Every _____ or deviation from orthodox Christianity that rejects that the Spirit is a Person, always follows, by rejecting His Deity.

32. Those who accept Him as a person, virtually always accept His Deity & those who have rejected His Deity, virtually always reject _____ person.

33. Though, in the history of Christianity there have been a _____ false teachers who have believed He is a person without believing He is God.

34. A careful study of Scripture reveals these truths stand & _____ together.

35. In a number of Old Testament passages, the Spirit of God is identified as “**Lord**” or “**Adonai**” in places like Isaiah _____, where we find Isaiah’s vision of God and God’s direct commissioning of Isaiah.

36. Of this Isaiah prophecy, we are told in Isaiah 9:8, that the prophet, “**heard the voice of the Lord**” (Isaiah 6:8 cf. Isaiah 6:1).
37. The name that Isaiah uses for God in Isaiah 6:1 is “**Lord**” the Hebrew word “**Adonai**” (אֲדֹנָי), the _____ of God that means “**Lord**” or “**Master**” — meaning the One to whom we bow down & serve.
38. In Acts chapter twenty-eight, Paul when under house arrest in Rome, references the encounter Isaiah had with “**the Lord**” (Acts 28:26-27).
39. The original reference that the Apostle Paul quotes is Isaiah 6:8-10.

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” 9 And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.’ 10 “Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Lest they see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed” (Isaiah 6:8-10).

40. Very clearly, when Isaiah introduces verses 8-10, the identical section that the Apostle Paul quotes in Acts 28, we are told by the prophet Isaiah that this _____ what was spoken by “**the Lord**” (**Adonai**).
41. Yet, when the Apostle Paul cites this quotation from Isaiah the sixth chapter, he does so _____ saying, “**The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to you fathers**” (Acts 28:25).
42. In one passage — “**the Lord**” is credited with this statement, and yet in the Book of Acts, the “**Holy Spirit**” is credited with this statement, therefore giving — a clear affirmation — of the Spirit’s _____.
43. In addition, sometimes the Holy Spirit _____ expressly called “**LORD**,” a name that can be used of no one but of God Himself, and the name by which God identified Himself to Moses (Exodus 3:13-16).
44. This name of God (**LORD**) is made up of _____ Hebrew consonants (**Yod-Heh-Waw-Heh**) & occurs over 6,800 in the Old Testament.
45. These _____ Hebrew consonants are known as the Tetragrammaton, was once translated as “**Jehovah**” — which is a Latinization of the Hebrew (יהוה) (William Tyndale Bible, Geneva Bible, ASV, YLT).
46. Prior to the time of Christ, the Hebrew people came to believe that YHWH, the divine name of God, was too sacred to be spoken, and so, this sacred _____ of God stopped being vocalized.

47. Because written Hebrew contained consonants but no vowels, today it's unknown exactly how YHWH was *pronounced* by ancient Jews, though most Hebrew scholars believe it should _____ vocalized as “Yahweh.”
48. The very fact that the Holy Spirit is attributed with this same proper name is a clear & an unarguable affirmation that He too is _____.
49. An example of the Holy Spirit being referred to as “Yahweh” is found in Jeremiah 31:31-34 — the occasion when God makes the promise of a _____ covenant to the nation of Israel (read 31:27-34).
50. Once again, Jeremiah the prophet introduces this section of Scripture with the words, “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD (31:___).
51. In Jeremiah 31:27, he uses the noun YHWH, the sacred covenant name of God, expressing God's closeness to humans, like in Genesis 2:7 when the LORD, “breathed into his (Adam's) nostrils the breath of life.”
52. When this passage from Jeremiah is cited in Hebrews chapter ten, it is introduced with the words, “And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, ‘THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL ...’” (10:15-17).
53. These _____ passages taken together teach the Holy Spirit is LORD too (2 Samuel 23:2-3 cf. Acts 1:16; Psalm 78:17-23 cf. Isaiah 63:10).
54. Another Old Testament example affirming the Deity of the Spirit, can be seen on the occasion just before Moses _____ on top of Mount Nebo — when he gathered the children of Israel together and recounted — God's faithfulness — to them as a nation.
55. When he recalls Jacob's experience, he writes in Deuteronomy ___:

8 “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel. 9 “For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. 10 “He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. 11 “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. 12 “The LORD alone guided him, and there was no foreign god with him.

56. Moses plainly stated when Yahweh found Israel ___ the desert of Egypt that He protected him — “as the pupil of His eye” (*lit. the little man of the eye*) — and that “the LORD alone guided him.”

57. And yet, when Isaiah describes God's protective care, he tells us in Isaiah _____ that it was "the Spirit" who did this.

14 As the cattle which go down into the valley, The Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So You led Your people, To make for Yourself a glorious name (Isaiah 63:14).

58. Once again, putting these truths side by side — it is very _____ as God progressively revealed the Trinity, that the Spirit is equal to **the LORD**.

59. The Spirit is expressly called _____ in the New Testament Scriptures.

60. A simple straight forward passage affirming the _____ of the Holy Spirit is found in Acts 5:1-6.

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed His last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. 6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

61. Ananias' was guilty of the sin of lying, by seeking to deceive the Christians in Jerusalem, by trying to gain a reputation _____ greater generosity than he deserved.

62. Ananias' sin was misrepresenting his gift by claiming that he was giving the total amount that he had received, when in reality, it was only a portion of the _____.

63. Rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to _____ him, as had been the consistent witness of the Church (cf. Acts 2:4; Acts 4:8; Acts 4:31), Ananias had allowed Satan to control his heart.

64. This passage has been abused by some to teach socialism—but the gift they gave was _____ mandated, for they have kept it for themselves.

65. However, this passage does very clearly teach that by deceiving God's people Ananias was deceiving the Spirit _____ indwells the Church.

67. Christians today can lie to the Holy Spirit by pretending a devotion that is not theirs—or a surrender of life they have _____ really made.

68. Ananias' sin resulted _____ what the Apostle John calls a “**sin leading to death**” — premature “**physical death**” (1 John 5:16; 1 Cor. 11:30).
69. While a believer can _____ commit a sin leading to “**physical death**,” there have been times when God will act very “**seriously**” in order to set an example — so that we might know — how He thinks.
70. Jude 7 tells me that God destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah “**as an example**” of how He feels — concerning the sin of sodomy when He left — the twin cities — in smoking _____.
71. In 1 Corinthians 10:6, we are told that God judged with _____, the sins of the children of Israel as an example for us to avoid.
72. I suppose that if God acted today as He did in the early church then funeral homes — would have much more work — than they ____.
73. God had revealed to Peter—what Ananias had done—which no doubt crushed Ananias because he expected praise for his spectacular _____.
74. Because his sin of seeking the praise of men was a public sin, it was appropriate that his _____ be exposed publicly.
75. This illustrates the biblical principle that secret sins should be dealt _____ secretly, private sins privately and only public sins, publicly.
76. When Peter told Ananias, “**Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit**,” he was _____ accusing Ananias of lying to the Church or to the Apostles, but to the Holy Spirit Himself.
77. As noted earlier in this handout — the Holy Spirit exhibits the qualities of personhood, because one can only ___ to a person.
78. But also note the identification of the Spirit as _____ in these verses.
79. When the Apostle Peter follows his accusation that he had lied “**to the Holy Spirit**” with the words, “**You have not lied to men, but to God**,” he is giving a clear affirmation of the Spirit’s _____.
80. This is one of the simplest New Testament passages to _____ that the Holy Spirit is God — because if lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God — it necessarily follows — that the Spirit must be God.
81. The _____ of the Holy Spirit can also be defended by comparing passages like 1 Corinthians 3:16 — with 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

82. In 1 Corinthians 3:16, twice over believers in Christ are referred to as, “**the temple of God**” and the reason given in this verse as to why God _____ this designation is because, “**the Spirit of God dwells in you.**”
83. In addition, to being called “**the temple of God**” in 1 Corinthians three, God’s people are also referred to as — “**the temple of the Holy Spirit**” in 1 Corinthians 6:19, again making the Holy Spirit _____ to God.
84. To refer to God’s people as _____, “**the temple of God**” & “**the temple of the Holy Spirit**” — is to affirm that — the Holy Spirit is God.
85. The same argument could be made from 2 Corinthians 6:16 where the Apostle Paul writes, “**For we are the temple of the living God.**”
86. Once again, to be “**temple of the Holy Spirit**” and “**the temple of the living God**” is to directly teach that the Holy Spirit is _____.
87. Another example we could cite to demonstrate the Holy Spirit is God, concerns the occasion when Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, was filled _____ the Holy Spirit and prophesied (Luke 1:67).
88. In Luke 1:67-69, Luke records for us what happened _____ days after John was born — when God restored Zacharias’ — ability to speak.

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant—70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—71 Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; 72 To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, 74 To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,

89. While “**filled with the Holy Spirit**” — Zacharias “**prophesied,**” making him a living conduit of God’s Word & God’s _____.
90. While prophesying he stated specifically that the, “**God of Israel**” was the _____ who, “**spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old.**”
91. Similarly, when the Apostle Peter writes of the *Old Testament* prophets, he tells us in 2 Peter _____, “**for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**”
92. So, we are _____ that when Zacharias “**prophesied**” like all of the “**holy prophets of old**” & when this happened it was God who “**spoke.**”

93. Yet, the Apostle Peter plainly states the same truth telling us that when all the prophets “spoke from God” they were able to do so as they were “moved by the Holy Spirit” & so making the Spirit _____ to God.

94. Also, 2 Corinthians 3:17 directly refers _____ the Spirit as “the Lord.”

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

95. Dozens of other passages also demonstrate the Spirit’s deity in that He has the characteristics that _____ God can possess.

96. For instance, He exhibits **omniscience** (1 Corinthians 2:10; John 14:26; Isaiah 40:13-14; Isaiah 46:10; Acts 1:16).

97. The Spirit also exhibits **omnipresence** (Jeremiah 23:23–24; Psalm 139) He exhibits **omnipotence** (Psalm 62:11; Isaiah 40:28; Luke 1:35), and _____ exhibits **eternality** (Hebrews 9:14).

98. The Spirit’s deity is seen in that He has the infinite attributes of God, and it is seen in that He does the works that only God _____ perform.

99. The Holy Spirit was involved in **creating** the world (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 104:30; Job 26:13; Job 33:4) in the **incarnation** (Luke 1:35), in the **inspiration** of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

100. In addition, the Holy Spirit is involved in our in our salvation as seen in our **justification** (John 16:9-10), _____ **sanctification** (1 Peter 1:2), and in our **glorification** (Romans 8:11) when salvation is complete.

101. As we studied earlier in this section, if the worship of the Lord Jesus & His acceptance of that worship is a _____ if His Deity (Matthew 14:33; Matthew 28:9) — even so the worship of the Spirit is proof of His deity.

102. When the disciples are worshipping God in Acts chapter 4, the _____ of the Holy Spirit, was included in their prayer of praise (Acts 4:24-31):

103. In addition, we find the Spirit being worshipped in the many prayers or benedictions in the New Testament (1 Thess. 5:28; 2 Thess. 3:18, Hebrews 13:20-21) affirming that _____ is God & receives worship.

