

LECTURE # 3

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN COUNSELING

INTRODUCTION

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the counseling process?

“An old Puritan writer once said that the Holy Spirit was the least known, least loved, and least worshiped member of the Trinity. Sadly, the same condition seems to exist today. Such ignorance and indifference is a sin of the greatest magnitude because in it we ignore His position in the godhead as co-equal with the Father and the Son. We also, to a great extent, ignore His place in the great Plan of Redemption. Redemption is planned by the Father, provided in the Son, but it is applied only by the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit may be called “The Executive Member of the godhead,” as His business is to execute in the world the plans and purposes of God the Father and God the Son.” — James Alexander Stewart, The Heavenly Executive

2. I think in our caution and opposition to mysticism, it is easy to exegete the Holy Spirit right out of the Father’s divine plan for the ages and for our lives — particularly our growth.

Our view of growth can become “_____” rather than “God centered.”

3. We need to practically & theologically think through questions like:
 - a. What does it mean to “walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh”?
 - b. What does it look like to be “filled with the Spirit”?
 - c. What did God mean when He said, “They that are in flesh cannot please God”?

4. We don't need to be afraid that we will dishonor the Lord Jesus by honoring the Spirit of God.

“It's sad when people take important truths like these to unbiblical excess. It has the effect of driving us away from the very teaching that will give us the greatest joy and fulfillment in our lives! The Holy Spirit was given to us to help us grow in Christlikeness. He belongs to all of us.” D. Jeremiah, God in You

5. Just about everything we count important to us in doctrine and practice is rooted in some aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit — that would be true of our counseling as well! --John 16:1-15 (15:26)

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS THE COUNSELEE TO _____.

It is not our responsibility to make the Gospel believable, but to make it available!

- A. The Holy Spirit convicts the counselees of _____.

- a. Reprove = to bring to light, to expose, to refute, to convict and convince
- b. Translated “pronounce the verdict” The sin of “UNBELIEF” (referred to in John 3:18)

- B. The Spirit also convicts the counselee of _____ (not unrighteousness).

“A person cannot be saved without the Spirit of God because the Spirit's purpose here is to shatter the pretensions of self-righteousness (hypocrisy), exposing the darkness of the heart” (MacArthur Study Bible)

1. The Spirit of God reveals the Savior two ways:

- a. In the _____ (His Sword of Truth)
- b. In the _____

C. The Holy Spirit also convict the counselee of _____.

“When a lost sinner is truly under conviction, he will see the folly and evil of unbelief; he will confess that he does not measure up to the righteousness of Christ; and he will realize that he is under condemnation because he belongs to the world and the devil (Eph. 2:1-3). The only person who can rescue him from such a horrible situation is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There can be no conversion without conviction, and there can be no conviction apart from the Spirit of God using the word of God and the witness of the child of God.” Wiersbe, The Bible Expositor Commentary, p.362

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDES THE COUNSELEES WITH THE _____ OF SALVATION.

“Assured people live better!”

A. Romans 8:16

“Just as the witnesses to a Roman adoption had the responsibility of testifying to its validity, so the indwelling Holy Spirit Himself is constantly present to provide inner testimony to our divine adoption. He certainly does that through the inner work of illumination and sanctification, as well as through the longing for communion with God.”— MacArthur, Romans 1-8, p. 438

1. Paul is referring to the _____ Gal. 5:22-23.

“Evidence gives confidence!”

2. He may be referring to the “good works” mentioned in _____

“When believers are compelled by love for God, feel deep hatred for sin, reject the world, long for Christ’s return, love other Christians, experience answered prayer, discern between truth and error, long for and move toward Christlikeness, the work of the Holy Spirit is evidenced and those believers have witness that they truly are children of God.” MacArthur, Roman 1-8, p. 438

B. 1 John 3:18-19

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS COUNSELEES _____ GOD'S WORD.

A. 1 Corinthians 2:14

B. I Corinthians 2:12

Q: What impact does that have on the counseling process?

1. We have the _____ of the book in the session AND in the heart of the counselor AND in the heart of the counselees.
2. The counselors/counselees must be _____ (Acts 17:11).
3. The Holy Spirit provided guidance through the Word of God.

“It is absurd to suppose that the Holy Spirit would spend years producing the Scriptures only to circumvent them regularly by resorting to other methods of guiding believers.”— Adams, Theology of Christian Counseling, p.26

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES THE COUNSELEES TO BE _____.

“The Christian life isn't hard; the Christian life is impossible!”

A. If you want to know what holiness is, you have to look two places:

1. The _____ - He personifies holiness because He is holy.
2. _____ - the fruit of the Spirit
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:11
 - b. 2 Timothy 2:22
 - c. 1 Peter 1:16

B. The role of the Holy Spirit in the counseling process is one of bringing about _____ in the life of the counselee.

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT ALLOWS THE COUNSELEE/COUNSELOR TO _____ PROPERLY.

Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26

A. The Holy Spirit uses His Word to help us know to _____ to pray for or _____ to pray.

B. While we talk to God in prayer, we cannot neglect “God talking to us” _____.

VI. THE HOLY SPIRIT EQUIPS THE COUNSELEE TO _____ OTHERS.

Matthew 28:19-20

A. The word of God is clear in His commands that believers are to associate with _____.

1. Hebrews 10:23-25

B. The avenue which God has designed for this work is the _____ (body of Christ).

1. Romans 12:4

2. Spiritual gifts are nothing more than _____ through which the Holy Spirit ministers to the body of Christ!

“What is truly remarkable about the Holy Spirit’s ministry through believers is that they become extensions of the Spirit’s voice, much as they become ambassadors for Christ when they minister the Gospel to others.” MacArthur, *The Silent Shepherd*, p. 98.

1) This fact ought to encourage us to seek to be a better _____ (more godly and loving) as we seek to use our spiritual gifts and insights to help others.

2) It also ought to make us more _____ to the Spirit’s correction when others lovingly come alongside and minister to us.