

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

Belgic Confession, Article 11

INTRODUCTION: We should take _____ the questions: Do we neglect the Holy Spirit? Is the Reformed tradition particularly to blame for such neglect?

1. THE PERSON OF THE SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Trinity, distinguished from the Father and Son by way of _____ eternally from them.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is _____ God (not *a* god, but a person of the *one* God) and is _____ (not a mere power or force).

| You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (Rom. 8:9-10)
 - b. This is a truth that is adumbrated (foreshadowed, anticipated) in the Old Testament and revealed more _____ in the New Testament.

| The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:2)
 - c. The Holy Spirit is definitively emphasized in Reformed theology: as the one who gives faith (HC 65), who _____ us to Christ (HC 53), and who gives us new life (HC 49).

2. THE STORY OF THE SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is clearly _____ (and celebrated by Reformed biblical theology) throughout the story of redemption.
 - a. See back of page for “The Story of the Spirit.”
 - b. The Spirit unites us to Christ and thereby _____ us (our identity, our experiences, our calling) within that one story of what God is doing in the world.

3. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT: Getting this right leads to a _____ appreciation of the role of the Holy Spirit in all of life.
 - a. The Holy Spirit gives us assurance by testifying _____ our spirit that we are God’s adopted children (Romans 8:15-17).

| The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God... (Romans 8:16)
 - b. The Holy Spirit helps us make decisions by giving us _____ in union with Christ (James 1:5; Colossians 2:2-3).
 - c. The Holy Spirit ministers to us through the _____ means of grace (Romans 10:17).

All of these – assurance, wisdom, the means of grace – must be _____ by faith as God’s gracious gifts.

The Story of the Spirit

1. The Spirit is involved in the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2).
2. After the flood, the dove flying over the waters alludes to the Spirit in Genesis 1 (Genesis 8:8-11).
3. The Shekinah glory cloud is imagery of the Spirit leading and guiding Israel, the means by which God is present among his people as the Spirit indwells the tabernacle in the midst of Israel (Exodus 13:21-22, 40:34).
4. God's people in the Old Testament enjoyed the indwelling of the Spirit (Psalm 51:11), though not yet the fullness of being united by the Spirit to the risen, ascended, reigning Messiah.
5. The Spirit anointed individuals for their callings (Judges 6:34).
6. The exile is described as God's Shekinah glory departing from Israel (Ezekiel 10:18).
7. During the exile, the prophets promised the restoration of Israel as involving the return of God's glory presence and a pouring out of the Spirit (Ezekiel 43:4-5, Joel 2:28).
8. Messianic promises involve anointing of the Spirit (Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18).
9. The incarnation is accomplished by the Spirit (Luke 1:35).
10. The Spirit empowers Jesus to carry out his calling as the Messiah (Matthew 3:16, Luke 4:18).
11. Jesus says that Israel needs to be made new (born again) by the Spirit (John 3:5).
12. Jesus promises and sends the fullness of the Spirit after his ascension (Luke 24:49, Acts 2).
13. At Pentecost, the Shekinah glory of the Spirit is given to all of God's people (Acts 2).
14. The Spirit inspires the Scriptures and provides the miraculous signs that confirmed the testimony of the apostles as the foundation of the church (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).
15. The Spirit builds the church, drawing the nations to Israel's Messiah as the center of restoration and new creation (Ephesians 2, Romans 8).
16. The Spirit makes the world new, filling all of creation with God's presence (Revelation 21:3, 22-23).