

- I. How Theology Shapes Marriage Part 7: How does the Biblical Doctrines of the Spirit's Work help us have a more godly marriage?
- a. Note: This is new for the first time in this series.
 - b. Purpose: In this session we shall see some of the Spirit's work that is found in the New Testament and also how it is practical for the Christian life.
 - c. The Holy Spirit convicts (**John 16:8-11**)
 - i. Passage: *"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."* (**John 16:8-11**)
 - ii. Context:
 1. This is Jesus speaking the night before He would be crucified.
 2. The "He" that Jesus is referring to here is the Holy Spirit mentioned in **verse 13** as *"Spirit of Truth."*
 - iii. Note the Spirit *"will convict the world"* (**v.8**) but what does convict mean?
 1. The verb appears eighteen times in the New Testament such as **Titus 1:19** and every time it is used to refer to the act of showing someone their sins so they can repent.¹
 2. It involves bringing someone to acknowledge their personal guilt.²
 - iv. According to **verse 8** Jesus the Spirit is to convict *"the world"* concerning three things:
 1. #1: *"sin"*
 - a. Jesus in **v.9** further explain: *"concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me"*
 - b. Unbelievers will not believe in Jesus unless they first are convicted of their sins. Hence the Spirit is convicting them of their sins so they would believe in Christ.
 2. #2: *"righteousness"*
 - a. Jesus in **v.10** further explain: *"concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me"*
 - b. After Christ's ascension unbelievers will no longer be able to see Jesus in His holiness and will start think they are righteous without Christ as the Perfect Standard.
 - c. But according to **Isaiah 65:6b** *"all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment."*
 - d. Hence the Spirit is convicting them of their self-righteousness.
 3. #3: *"judgment"*
 - a. Jesus in **v.9** further explain: *"concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged"*
 - b. Unbelievers is not aware that the Devil as the ruler of the world has already been judged. Hence the Spirit is convicting them of the truth of God's judgment to come.

¹ D.A Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991), 534.

² D.A Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991), 534.

4. New Testament scholar D.A. Carson is right to point out that the Spirit's work of convicting the world is primarily to bring people to turn to Jesus.³
- d. The Holy Spirit is our Legal Advocate (**John 14:16**)
- i. Passage: *"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever"* (**John 14:16**)
 - ii. Context:
 1. Again this is Jesus speaking the night before He would be crucified.
 2. The "He" that Jesus is referring to here is the Holy Spirit mentioned in **verse 17** as *"Spirit of Truth."*
 - iii. Note the Spirit is called *"another Helper"* which different translations vary what that word means which makes us what does the original Greek term *Paraclete* mean?
 1. The Greek term *Paraclete* refers to an ancient office of someone giving legal assistance in court as legal advisers.⁴
 2. Note the word *"another"* when Jesus said *"another Helper."* The first *Paraclete* is of course Jesus. The term *Paraclete* is used of Jesus in **1 John 2:1** that affirm this meaning of *Paraclete*: *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" → "Advocate"* here is the Greek term *Paraclete*.⁵
 - iv. The Spirit did not just leave believers convicted with sin! He comforts us and helps us by being another advocate alongside with Jesus!!!!
- e. The Holy Spirit dwelling in us
- i. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is important. It is the foundation for other works of His in the lives of believers.
 - ii. *"that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."* (**John 14:17**)
 1. Because of sin and rebellion *"the world cannot receive"* the Spirit of Truth.
 2. However for believers we can *"know Him."*
 3. Jesus tells us the reason why believers can *"know Him"* is *"because He abides with you."*
 4. This verse follows after **John 14:26** about the Spirit as a legal helper, showing the close association with the Spirit dwelling within believers.
 - iii. Both **Romans 8:9, 8:11** also teaches us on the indwelling of the Spirit.
- f. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher (**John 14:26**)
- i. Passage: *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."* (**John 14:26**)
 - ii. The Holy Spirit here is described by Jesus as both *"Helper,"* and the One *"whom the Father will send in My name."*
 - iii. Note the Spirit's role:
 1. *"He will teach you all things"*
 2. *"bring to your remembrance all that I said to you"*

³ D.A Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991), 537.

⁴ R.C. Sproul, *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit* (Ross-ahiew, United Kingdom: Christian Focus Publications, 2009), 148-149.

⁵ R.C. Sproul, *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit* (Ross-ahiew, United Kingdom: Christian Focus Publications, 2009), 148-149.

- iv. The Holy Spirit as teacher is also taught by Paul: *“For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”* (1 Corinthians 2:10-13)→Notice His role in making believers know things.
- g. The Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8:26-27)
 - i. Passage: *“In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”* (Romans 8:26-27)
 - ii. The Spirit prays when we are weak!
 - iii. He prays for us even when we don’t know what to pray for!
- h. Application
 - i. Note: While the truths we learn in this session is applicable to the general Christian life I want to show how the doctrines here are practical by making application specifically in the context of marriage.
 - ii. Application from the Spirit and Conviction: If the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins that should change the way we view and handle our sins in marriage.
 - 1. We should not think that when we are convicted of sin it is only our spouse guilt-tripping us: God the Holy Spirit Himself is convicting us! Do you realize that?
 - 2. We should see our sins as a big deal and not something small if the Spirit is involved with convicting us. We should be careful of saying “everyone sins like this in marriage” as an excuse for our sins, for the Spirit is convicting us!
 - iii. Application from the Spirit as *Paraclete*:
 - 1. Aren’t you so glad the Spirit didn’t just leave us with conviction? It would be a sorrow that leads to death!
 - 2. Since Jesus and the Holy Spirit are our advocates, have you gone to them for grace and help with your sins in your marriage?
 - iv. Application from the Spirit indwelling:
 - 1. Paul has an application from the truth of the Spirit indwelling in us: *“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)→ We should not destroy our body since it is the Temple of God. Likewise we should treat our spouse properly since they too are the Temple of God!
 - 2. Paul has another application from the truth of the Spirit indwelling in us: *“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?”* (1 Corinthians 6:19)
 - a. In the context earlier in 1 Corinthians 6:19 Paul prohibited sexual immorality.
 - b. This verse gives the motivation for the prohibition.
 - c. Note that the motivation is because one’s body is *“a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you”* which is the doctrine of indwelling of the Spirit!

- d. In marriage, be faithful to your spouse and not pursue unfaithfulness!
- v. Application from the Spirit as Teacher:
 - 1. Are you willing to take applying the Word of God seriously concerning marriage since He is your teacher?
 - 2. Pray also to God to remember His ways and principles for marriage seeing that His role as teacher is to help us remember God's truth.
- vi. Application from the Spirit praying for us:
 - 1. We often get encouraged to know people are praying for our marriage; does it encourage you to know the Spirit prays for your marriage?
 - 2. When you are weak in your marriage, model your prayer after the Holy Spirit: Pray for God's Will to be done!