



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

May 17, 2015

“Can We Worship The Holy Spirit?”

Bryan Garlock

“When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, ‘Stand up; I too am a man’” (Acts 10:25-26). Since God sent Cornelius a messenger to tell him what he must do, Cornelius, being the good man that he was, obviously felt the need to show honor and praise to God’s herald. In this passage Peter says something that we would do well to comprehend for this study: “Stand up; I too am a man.” Peter’s words have implications. First and foremost that he is not to be worshipped because he is not God, and second, that only God can be worshipped.

This truth is replete in Scripture. For instance God told the Israelites, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God” (Exo. 20:4-5). Elsewhere, Jesus told Satan, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve” (Matt. 4:10). His word not only denies worship to the apostles as seen above, it also restricts us from worshipping angels (Col. 2:18). Therefore, God is “...worthy to be praised” (Psalm 18:3) and “greatly to be praised” (Psalm 48:1).

Thus it can be stated that those who love God must worship Him and they must give Him all the glory, honor and praise. While men, angels and carved images are excluded, the question is sometimes asked: “What about the Spirit of God, can He be worshipped?” To answer such a question we must first understand who, or what, the Holy Spirit is.

The Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is Deity. When Peter confronted Ananias he said, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” Further, Peter said, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?” (Acts 5:3-4, 9). Since Peter attributed the Holy Spirit as God, it can be said that the Holy Spirit *is* God.

If He is Deity, then He must be able to fit the description of such. The Scriptures bear out that He is omniscient, i.e., knowing all things and omnipresent, i.e. everywhere present (1 Cor. 2:10-11; Psalm 139:7-10). None would conclude after diligent Bible study that God does not know all things or that He is not everywhere. This then is an indicator of the divine nature.

Northside
church Of Christ

25 Greenfield Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock
Office: 937.393.3634
Cell: 478.256.0325
preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Pot luck at Pierce's house is cancelled tonight
- Kid's drill today @ 4!
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

May 17 2 Sam 16-18
May 18 Ps 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64
May 19 2 Sam 19-21
May 20 Ps 5, 38, 41-42
May 21 2 Sam 22-23, Ps 57
May 22 Ps 95, 97-99
May 23 2 Sam 24, 1 Chr 21-22, Ps 30

Furthermore, as God is eternal, i.e., always existed, so is His Spirit (Heb. 9.14). Thus it is only logical to conclude that the Holy Spirit was there "in the beginning" of the world and even helped in its creation. Moses recorded, "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" (Gen. 1.2). Finally, God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (Gen. 1.26). While Gen. 1.1 does say, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth..." and Deut. 6.4 states, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one..." we must understand that God is a *collective* one, not an *absolute* one. Much like a husband and his wife are a collective one, not an absolute one (Gen. 2.24). Interestingly, Job said, "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life" (33.4). We can conclude therefore, that the Holy Spirit is Deity, i.e., God and eternal, and also co-creator.

In addition to the above, the Holy Spirit is the source of miracles. It was the Spirit of God that gave the apostles inspiration on the day of Pentecost (Acts. 2.4, 33). It was also His Spirit that distributed at will spiritual gifts to individuals in the first century (1 Cor. 12.11; Heb. 2.3-4). Therefore, it can be undoubtedly determined that the Spirit of God is indeed a divine being; a person of the Godhead.

Finally, the most compelling argument, alongside being co-creator, that can be made in defense of Holy Spirit worship for this writer is none other than His connection with baptism. Jesus instructed the apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matt. 28.19). How can we not worship the authority of which we are baptized? Since Christians "...outraged the Spirit..." when they abandon the faith (Heb. 10.29), how does it make Him feel when we do not obey His instruction in water baptism? Interestingly, too, we see the Godhead together at the baptism of Jesus. It was the Holy Spirit that confirmed the glorification of the Father's Son (Matt. 3.16-17; John 1.32-34).

As introduced above, lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God. Therefore, it is surely the case that worshiping the Holy Spirit is worshiping God. Thus since God demands our praise and since the Holy Spirit is neither angelic nor human, but is indeed God, one can safely worship the Spirit of God without fear of directing his worship away from God the Father. BG

For further study on this subject of the Holy Spirit as part of the divine nature, see: John 14.26; 15.26; 16.7-8, 13-14; Acts 1.16; 7.51; 8.29; 15.28; Rom. 8.26; 15.30; Eph. 4.30; 1 Tim. 4.1; Heb. 3.7-9