

SESSION 4
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

From the early church era (post-apostolic period) there were groups who denied that the Holy Spirit was and is a person. And this thinking continued through the Protestant Reformation to the present day. Three noteworthy groups were:

1. The Monarchians who believed in only one _____
 - Modal monarchianism-one God working in different _____
 - Dynamic monarchianism-God is _____ and of one nature

In this view, Jesus is seen as the Son of God, but not co-eternal with God. He was essentially granted “godhood” at the time of His baptism.

2. The Pneumatomachians-_____ of the Holy Spirit
3. The Socinians-Total _____ theology

Here’s how it is stated in the PCC Doctrinal Statement.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, that He is God, that He possesses all the divine attributes, that He is the interpreter of the infallible Word of God, that He baptizes and indwells all believers at the moment of their salvation, that He empowers believers for ministry and that it is the responsibility of every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He is our Comforter, Counselor, and Revealer of Jesus Christ.

There are four major biblical arguments for the belief that the Holy Spirit is a real person. Let’s look at them.

- I. Designations that are proper to _____ are given to Him
 - A. _____-He (the Holy Spirit) will bring Me (Jesus) glory.
_____ -“who” in NIV beginning v. 14
 - B. The use of _____ (Gr. *parakletos*)
John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7

The Holy Spirit as “comforter” is placed in juxtaposition with Christ as comforter.

II. The _____ of a person are ascribed to Him

- A. _____-He has _____
- B. _____-He exercises His _____
- C. _____-He has _____
- D. He performs _____
 - 1. _____-He _____
 - 2. _____-He _____ of sin
 - 3. **Acts 8:29**-He **speaks**
 - 4. **I Cor. 2:10-11**-He **searches**

III. His **relationships** with other persons implies personality

- A. **Acts 15:28**-Juxtaposition with the **apostles**
- B. **John 16:14**-relationship with **Jesus Christ**
- C. **II Cor. 13:13**-the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit
- D. **Jude 20-21**-He **directs** believers in how to pray

IV. He is distinguished from His own **power**

- A. **Luke 1:35**
 - 1. The Holy Spirit will **come upon you**
 - 2. His power will **overshadow** you
- B. **Luke 4:14**-Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit's **power**
- C. **Acts 10:38**-Jesus anointed with the **Holy Spirit** and with **power**
- D. **I Cor. 2:4**-The Holy Spirit was **powerful** among you

V. Some conclusions

- A. Men have always tried to explain away the **mysteries** of God.
- B. The Holy Spirit is clearly presented as a **person** in the New Testament.
- C. The Holy Spirit clearly has **characteristics** of personhood.
- D. The Holy Spirit conducts **relationships**.

He is presented in the Bible as being in relationship with God the Father and God the Son. Additionally, he is presented as being in relationship with individuals and with groups of individuals.

- E. The New Testament clearly **delineates** between the Person of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit.