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■ The Holy Spirit

His Nature

Misconceptions of the Holy Spirit

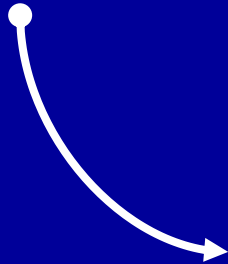
- “Holy Ghost”
 - Something that is not real, fictitious
 - Some mystical or magical being
 - Think in terms of Hollywood type special effects
 - Makes it difficult to think of the Holy Spirit as “real”

Misconceptions of the Holy Spirit

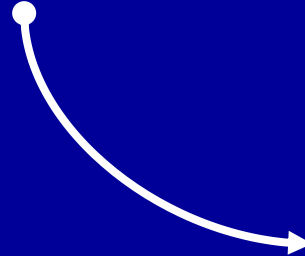
- Somehow different than other members of the Godhead
 - Somehow inferior to God the Father, and God the Son
 - Some hierarchy among the Godhead?

Misconceptions of the Holy Spirit

God the Father



God the Son



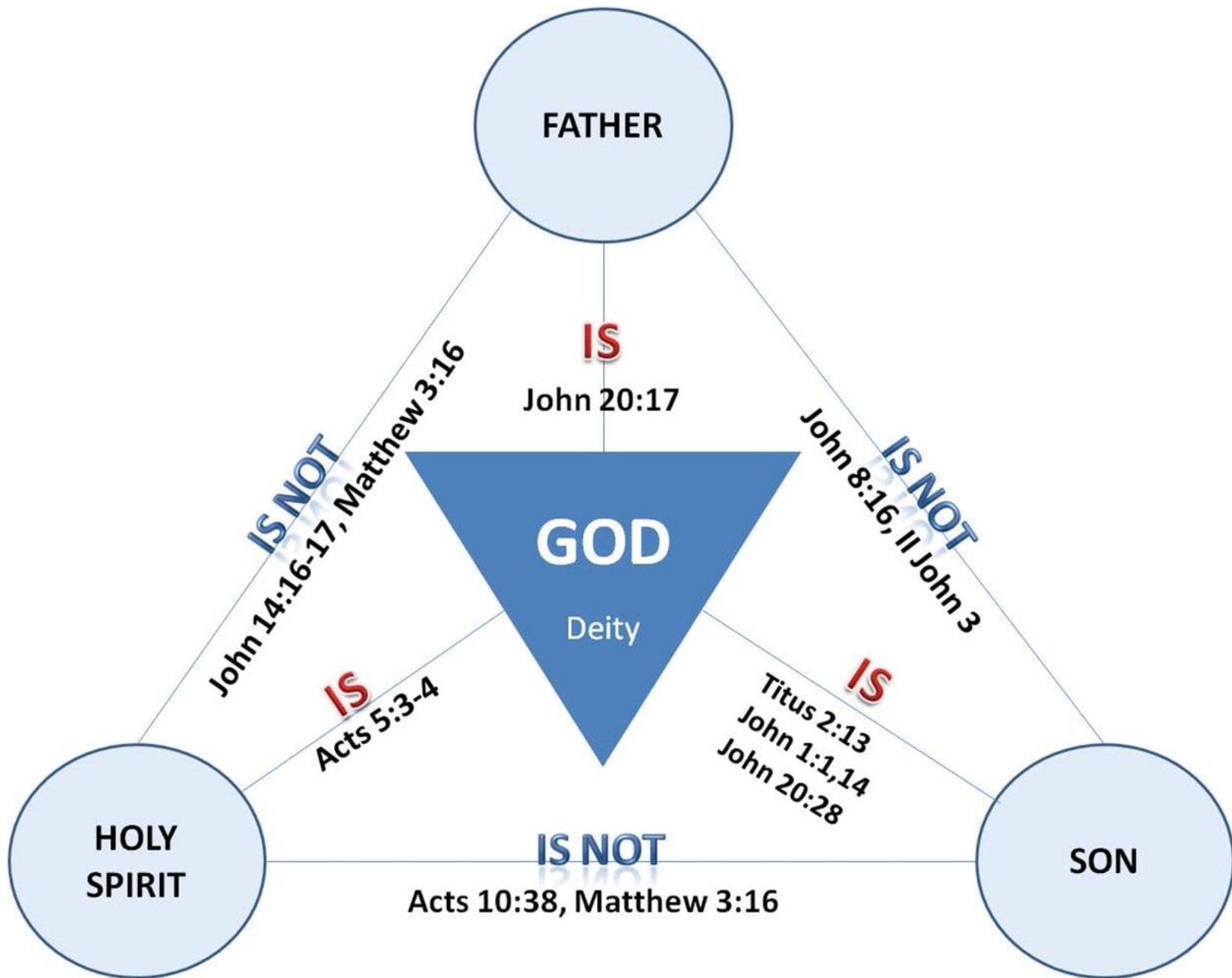
God the Holy Spirit

This is, sometimes, our idea:

God the Father is somehow over the Son (as in Superior), who is over the Holy Spirit (as in Superior).

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- God is God
 - There are no “degrees” of being God
 - All members of the Godhead are equal in being and power – (e.g. Creation – Genesis 1)
 - The Holy Spirit is equal to the Son, who is equal to the Father



Nature of the Holy Spirit

- We cannot accept the Holy Spirit as a “lesser god”
 - The Jehovah’s Witnesses try to do this with Christ
 - In their “translation”, they make substantial changes to John 1:1

John 1:1

- New King James Version:
 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- New World Translation
 - “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God, and the word was a god.”

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- This change makes Christ a lesser entity in the Godhead
 - It makes Him something less than true deity
 - If we consider the Holy Spirit to be something of a “lesser god”, we do the same thing!

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- There is only ONE God
 - Malachi 2:10

Malachi 2:10

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the fathers?

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- There is only ONE God
 - Malachi 2:10
 - Genesis 1:26-27

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- There is only ONE God
 - Malachi 2:10
 - Genesis 1:26-27
- God is spoken of in both the plural and the singular
 - There is one God, and 3 members of the Godhead

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- If any member of the Godhead is inferior to another member, then there is more than “one God”
- In being, knowledge, will and power all 3 members of the Godhead are one (equal)
 - John 16:12-15

John 16:12-15

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

Delivering the Message:

- The message that was delivered was the message of the Father
 - But, the message of the Son was the same
 - And the message of the Holy Spirit was the same
- All of these were in complete agreement
 - The Holy Spirit delivered the same message as the Son, which was the same as the Father

■ Equality of the Godhead

- Establishing the equality of the Holy Spirit
- Consider creation:
 - Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Equality of the Godhead

- Establishing the equality of the Holy Spirit
- Consider creation:
 - Genesis 1:1
 - Colossians 1:15-18

Colossians 1:15-18

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

That is, Christ

Equality of the Godhead

- They are equal in being
- Consider creation:
 - Genesis 1:1
 - Colossians 1:15-18
 - John 1:3

John 1:3

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- All members of the Godhead were present at the creation
- Yet, Genesis 1:1 tells us simply that “God created”
 - Therefore all 3 are God, and equal in their existence

Equality in the Godhead

- They are equal in will
 - The Father and the Son are One
 - John 10:25-30

John 10:25-30

Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.”

Equality in the Godhead

- They are equal in will
 - The Father and the Son are One
 - John 10:25-30
 - The message of the Father and the Son is one
 - John 12:44-50

John 12:44-50

Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come *as* a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

John 12:44-50

For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

Equality of the Godhead

- Why does Jesus speak of doing the will of the Father if they are equal?
 - In His incarnate (human) existence, He chose to be submissive to the Father (not inferior)
 - Philippians 2:5-8

Philippians 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

Equality of the Godhead

- Why does Jesus speak of doing the will of the Father if they are equal?
 - In His incarnate (human) existence, He chose to be submissive to the Father (not inferior)
 - Hebrews 2:9-10

Hebrews 2:9-10

Heb 2:9-10 NKJV But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Equality of the Godhead

- Why does Jesus speak of doing the will of the Father if they are equal?
 - In His incarnate (human) existence, He chose to be submissive to the Father (not inferior)
 - Hebrews 5:8-9

■ Hebrews 5:8-9

Heb 5:8-9 NKJV though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Equality of the Godhead

- The Holy Spirit is also equal in “oneness”
 - He did not speak on His own authority
 - John 16:13

John 16:13

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Equality of the Godhead

- The Holy Spirit is also equal in “oneness”
 - He did not speak on His own authority
 - John 16:13
 - This is the same type of language used of Jesus’ role
 - John 12:49

John 12:49

For I have not spoken on My own *authority*;
but the Father who sent Me gave Me a
command, what I should say and what I
should speak.

Equality of the Godhead

- The Holy Spirit is also equal in “oneness”
 - He did not speak on His own authority
 - John 16:13
 - This is the same type of language used of Jesus’ role
 - John 12:49
 - John 14:10

John 14:10

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

Equality of the Godhead

- The Holy Spirit is also equal in “oneness”
 - The will of God IS revealed through the Spirit
 - 1 Corinthians 2:9-13
 - It MUST therefore be a unified message! “Oneness”

1 Cor. 2:9-13

1Co 2:9-13 NKJV But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Equality of the Godhead

- Even if these passages are seen as portraying “submissiveness”... the choice to be submissive in a role does not change the equality of participants
 - Men and women are equal (not superior or inferior)
 - But God requires submission of women
 - Their choice to obey God and be submissive does not make them inferior!

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- What is the nature of the Holy Spirit?
 - He is God
 - That is, He is deity
 - He has the characteristics of deity
 - What passage reveals this to us?
 - None as clearly as John 1:1-2 that expresses the deity of Christ... but remember Acts 5:3-4, 9 ...

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- [Act 5:3-4, 9 NKJV] 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back [part] of the price of the land for yourself? 4 "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."
- ... 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband [are] at the door, and they will carry you out."

Characteristics of Deity

- We know of His deity by observing the characteristics of deity
- Eternal
 - Present at creation—continues existence to today
 - Genesis 1:2; Romans 8; Hebrews 9:14 (called the “eternal Spirit”)

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- Omnipotent
 - That is, He is all powerful
 - The “power of God” is expressed through the Holy Spirit
 - This is shown in the power of miracles
 - Power of miracles=Power of God=Power of the Holy Spirit
 - Matthew 12:25-30
 - Romans 15:17-21

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- Omnificent (unlimited creative power)
 - Involved in creation – Genesis 1:1-3
 - “Spoke” and it was done – Psalms 33:6-9
 - “garnished” the heavens – Job 26:13

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- Omnipresent (all places at all times)
 - God IS Spirit – John 8:24
 - Psalms 139:7-12 – “where can I go from your Spirit?”
 - Dwells in church – 1 Corinthians 3:7 ff
 - Dwells in individuals – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Nature of the Holy Spirit

- Omniscient (all knowing)
 - Psalms 139:1-6 ... note verse 7
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 – knowledge of God (Father) and Spirit are inextricably connected.
 - Same is true of Father/Son/Holy Spirit – 1 Peter 1:2

Characteristics ascribed to the Holy Spirit:

- Speaks – 1 Tim 4:1
- Teaches – John 14:26
- Guides – John 16:13
- Searches – 1 Cor. 2:10
- Bears witness – John 15:26
- Forbids – Acts 6:6-7
- Knows – 1 Cor. 2:11
- Wills – 1 Cor 12:11
- Can be grieved – Eph 4:30
- Can be blasphemed – Matt 12:31-32
- He can be resisted – Acts 7:51
- He can be lied to – Acts 5:3



■ The Holy Spirit

His Nature

