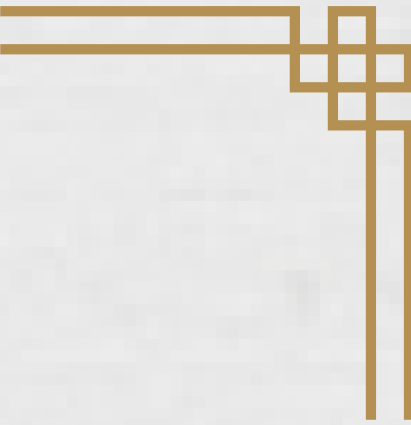
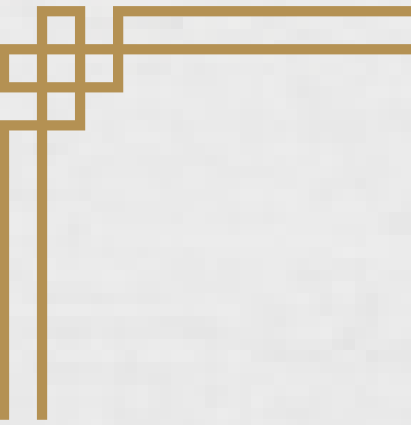
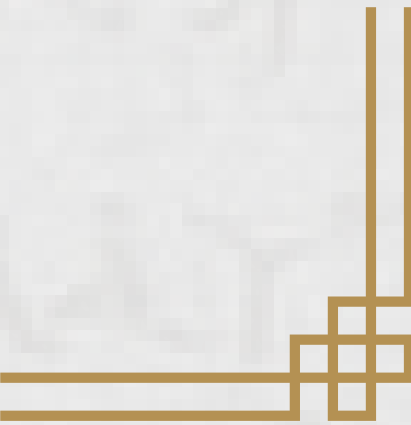
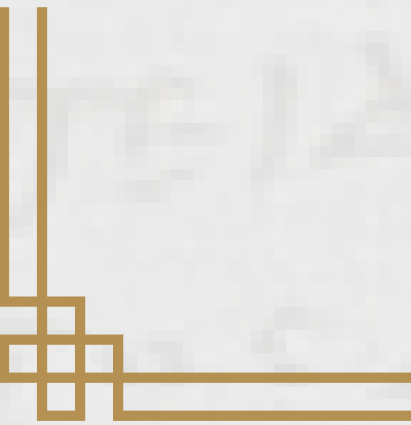




1 John

Worldview Formation:

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in 1 John 3



Summary of 1 John 3:19-24

Our confidence before God rests not in our perfect obedience, but in the grace and faithfulness of God. Though our hearts may condemn us when we recognize our failures, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. As we abide in Christ, the Holy Spirit produces growing faith, obedience, repentance, and love within us. Therefore, our assurance is ultimately in the faithful work of the Triune God.

➔ **Our response:** “trust God even when we fail—he’ll take care of the rest because he knows all things!”

Summary of 1 John 3

The Children of God Are Marked By a Transformed Life

- God's children pursue righteousness rather than lawlessness, ongoingly reject the pattern of habitual sin because Christ has destroyed the works of the devil, and demonstrate their new life through sacrificial love for God's people. Yet their confidence before God rests not upon perfect performance, but upon God's grace and faithfulness. As they abide in Christ, the Holy Spirit produces growing faith, obedience, perseverance, and love.

Summary of 1 John 3

1 John 3:1–10 → The Identity and Holiness of God's Children

1 John 3:11–18 → The Love of God's Children

1 John 3:19–24 → The Confidence of God's Children

- In essence, 1 John 3 presents the Christian life as the life of a child of God who is being transformed into the likeness of Christ: pursuing righteousness, actively confess and submit to God while following his commands, loving God's people sacrificially, and resting confidently in the faithful work of God through Christ in the Spirit

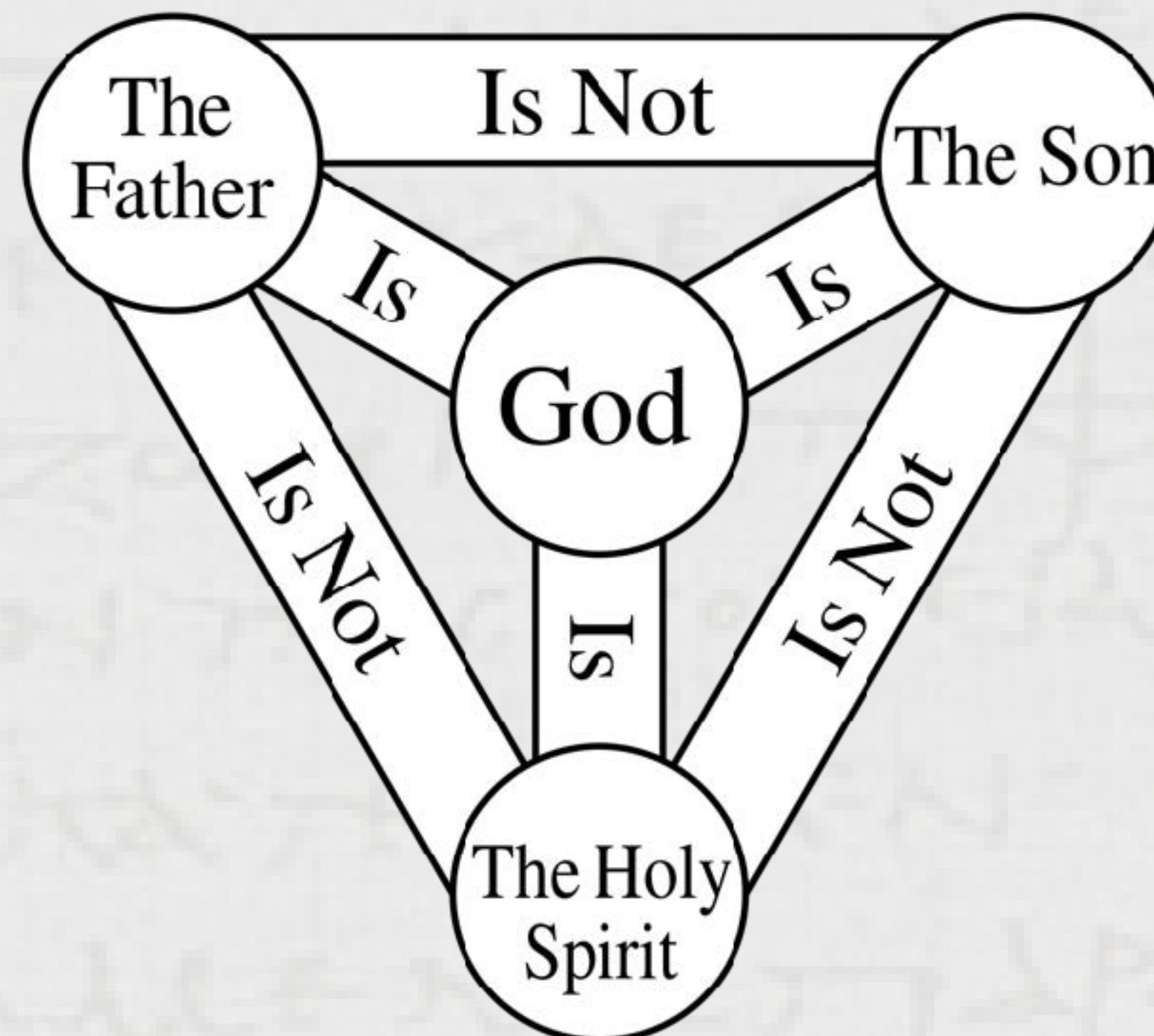
Worldview Formulation: The Holy Spirit

- John 3 both ends with and opens up the need for us to have a robust understanding the Holy Spirit—and it is in this thought process by the Apostle that we will formulate our understanding of what he is trying to say while taking into account the broader scope of the Biblical teaching about the Holy Spirit!
- Our goal here is to deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit from the whole of Scripture and then address what John says specifically and how his writing informs us of the Third Person of the Triune God

The Holy Spirit: An Introduction

- In classical theological language, we would say that the Holy Spirit is the “Third” person—or member—of the God-head. Below is a picture illustrating the Trinity:

The “Shield of
the Trinity”
Scutum Fidei
(Shield of Faith)



Each “Person” is
auto theos—God
of Himself

Personal Relation and External Work

Person

Father →

Son →

Holy Spirit →

Eternal Relation

← Unbegotten

← Eternally Begotten

← Eternally Proceeds

External Works

The Father → Purposes and Sends the Son

The Son → Reveals and Accomplishes the Father's Purposes

The Spirit → Applies the Work of Christ and Perfects All Things

Biblical Data of Holy Spirit

The Deity of the Holy Spirit—A Biblical Case

1. The Spirit Possesses the Attributes and Knowledge of God

- Omniscience: 1 Cor. 2:10–11; John 16:13–15
- Omnipresence: Ps. 139:7–10
- Truth: John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6
- Life-giving power: Job 33:4; John 6:63; Rom. 8:11
- Sovereign operation: John 3:8; 1 Cor. 12:11

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

2. The Spirit Does the Works of God

- Creation: Gen. 1:2
- Giving life: Job 33:4; John 6:63
- Regeneration: John 3:5–8; Titus 3:5
- Sanctification: 1 Thess. 3:13; 1 Pet. 1:2
- Resurrection: Rom. 8:11
- Divine revelation: 2 Pet. 1:20–21; John 14:26; 16:13–15

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

3. The Spirit Is Identified with God and God's Presence

- Lying to the Spirit = lying to God: Acts 5:3–4
- The Lord is the Spirit: 2 Cor. 3:17–18
- God's temple because of the Spirit: 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19
- God's indwelling presence known through the Spirit: 1 John 3:24; 4:13

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

4. The Spirit Acts as a Divine Person

- **Speaks:** Acts 13:2; Rev. 2–3; 14:13
- **Intercedes:** Rom. 8:26–27
- **Wills:** 1 Cor. 12:11
- **Can be grieved:** Eph. 4:30

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

5. The Spirit Shares in the Divine Identity of Father and Son

- One divine name: Matt. 28:19
 - Father, Son, and Spirit in blessing: 2 Cor. 13:13–14
 - Spirit, Lord, and God: 1 Cor. 12:4–6
- ➔ **Athanasian Creed:** We worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in unity neither confusing the persons or dividing substance but that we are compelled by the Christian truth to confess that each person is God and Lord and that the deity of the Father, Son and Spirit is One—equal in glory co-equal in majesty

John's Witness of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit gives God's life

- John 3:5–8
- John 6:63
- John 7:37–39
- John 20:22

The Spirit mediates God's presence

- John 14:16–17
- 1 John 3:24
- 1 John 4:13

John's Witness of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit communicates
God's truth

- John 14:17, 26
- John 15:26
- John 16:13–15
- 1 John 2:20, 27
- 1 John 4:6
- 1 John 5:6

The Spirit speaks and bears
God's testimony

- John 15:26
- John 16:13–15
- Rev. 2:7–3:22
- Rev. 14:13
- 1 John 5:6–10

John's Witness of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit participates in God's heavenly rule and redemption

- Rev. 1:4–5
 - Rev. 4:5
 - Rev. 5:6
 - Rev. 22:17
- ➔ **First Council of Constantinople (381AD):** “The Holy Spirit is the Lord and life-giver who proceeds from the Father and receives equal worship and glory with the Father and Son...”

The Church Confessions

The Second London Baptist Confession 1689 (Modern)

“3. This divine and infinite Being consists of three persons, the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided. The Father is not derived from anyone, neither begotten nor proceeding. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son...

The Church Confessions

...All three are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are *distinguished* by several *distinctive characteristics* and *personal relations*. This truth of the Trinity is the foundation of all of our fellowship with God and of our comforting dependence on Him.”

➡ Without the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, we would not experience the work of Christ nor stand before God pure — Christ made the way but the Spirit gives us the “way”!

What're We Trying to Say?!

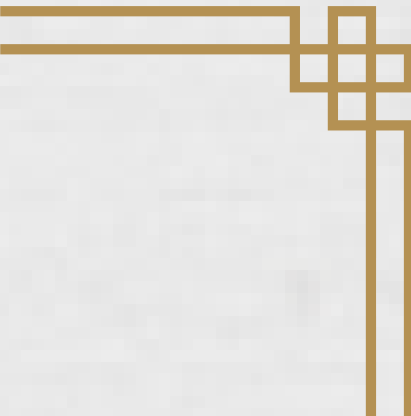
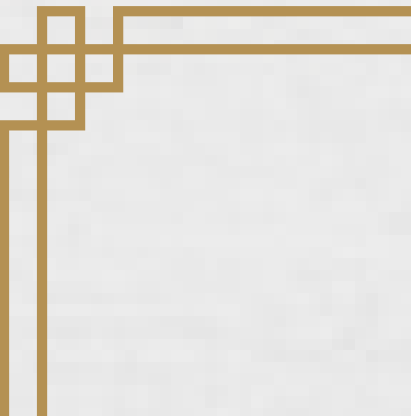
The biblical witness presents the Holy Spirit as divine—he:

- Possesses what God possesses
 - Is identified with God
 - Acts as a divine Person
 - Shares in the divine identity of Father and Son
- ➔ John brings all of this home for us in 1 John, in that, we know we abide/remain in God because the Spirit has been given to us—God's own presence is alive in us through the Spirit!

What're We Trying to Say?!

John's teaching is critical—we can be confident because:

- ◎ 1 John 3:24 — “...We know that he remains in us from the Spirit he has given us.”
 - ◎ 1 John 4:13 — “...He has given us of his Spirit.”
- ➔ In other words, by our confession of sin and profession of faith in the work of Christ, we are brought to God and presented pure because Jesus made the way and the Holy Spirit made us clean by applying to us what Christ secured on the cross!



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