



# Christian Basics Class

## Week 5 - God the Holy Spirit

### Creeds

Credo = I believe; Christian Creeds = What we believe about God

In the Creeds we confess that God is triune - 3 Persons in 1 God

### Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. What does this mean? I believe that I cannot

by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has

called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

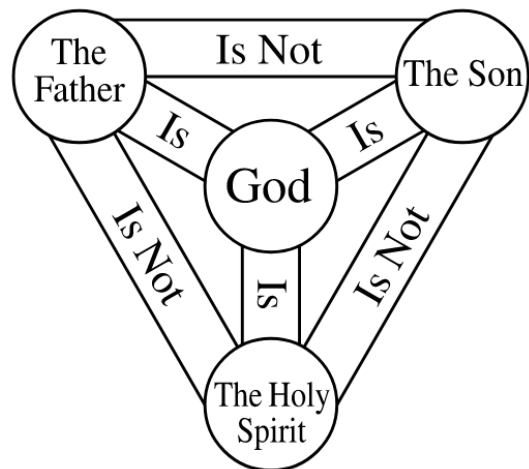
1. The Holy Spirit
2. The Church
3. The Forgiveness of Sins
4. The Resurrection of the Body
5. The Life Everlasting

### The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Trinity - not merely the power or energy of God  
(*Matthew 28:19*)

We know that the Holy Spirit is God because the Scriptures teach that:

- He has divine names (*Acts 5:3-4*)
- He possesses divine properties and characteristics (All-present; All-knowing; Eternal; Etc.)
- He does divine works
- He receives divine honor and glory





The Holy Spirit sanctifies (makes holy) us by bringing us to faith in Jesus, so that we might have the blessings of redemption and lead godly lives

We need the Holy Spirit to begin and sustain our faith because we are by nature spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God (*1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:7; 1 Corinthians 12:3*)

Aside from creating and sustaining faith in us, the Holy Spirit also renews our lives so that we strive to overcome sin and do good works (*Romans 12:2; Galatians 5:22-23*)

The Holy Spirit desires to sanctify all people and bring them to salvation through the Gospel, however many reject the Word and resist the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 22:1-14*)

### **The Church**

The holy Christian church is the total number of those who believe in Jesus

- The church is called “holy” because it is made up of holy people (saints) - believers who have been cleansed by the blood of Christ
- The church is called “Christian” because it belongs to Christ and is built on Him alone

The word “church” is also used to indicate:

1. The visible church
2. A denomination
3. A local congregation
4. A house of worship

The Word teaches that:

- We should seek to remain members of the invisible church
- We should be faithful to the visible church
- We should avoid false teachers and false churches
- We should maintain and extend God’s church

### **The Forgiveness of Sins**

God forgives sins because He is merciful and because of Christ’s atoning sacrifice for sinners. He offers forgiveness in the Gospel and we receive it through faith

We firmly hold to the teaching of justification by grace through faith because:

- It is the most important teaching in the Christian religion
- It distinguishes Christianity from false religions
- It gives comfort to the penitent sinner
- It gives all glory to God

### **The Resurrection of the Body**

The Word teaches that on the Last Day Christ “will raise me and all the dead” - the same bodies that have died will be made alive (*1 Thessalonians 4:16*)



At the resurrection:

- The believers will rise with glorified bodies and enter everlasting life with God
- The unbelievers will rise to eternal death

### **The Life Everlasting**

God gives eternal life to me and all believers in Jesus

- It is a present possession
- At death, our souls are immediately with Christ in heaven
- At the Last Day we, in both body and soul, will begin the full enjoyment of being with Christ forever

Even as we now believe in Christ our Savior, we also know that we have received eternal life out of pure grace and no one can pluck us out of His hand (*John 10:27-28; Romans 8:28-30*)