

=THE HOLY SPIRIT=

Lesson 13

The Holy Spirit Is Not Our Conscience

**INTRODUCTION:** Many people look upon the Holy Spirit as simply being the conscience of an individual. This is not true. He is a definite person with feelings, etc. People often ask, “Well, if He is a person, why doesn’t He have a body?” Well, one can be a person without having a body. In II Corinthians 5:8 we read, “...to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” This deals with the Christian, which means we can be absent from the body and still be a person and be present with our Lord. The Holy Spirit’s body in this age is the body of the believer. He is a person Who comes in to live when one receives Christ as his personal Saviour. Let us notice for this lesson some things that prove He is a person and not our conscience.

- I. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS KNOWLEDGE. I Corinthians 2:11, “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” Notice that He has knowledge. He tells us the things of God. A conscience cannot possess knowledge; only a person can do this.
- II. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS A MIND. Romans 8:27, “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” Notice, He has a mind. As a person has a mind, even so the Holy Spirit has a mind. The word “mind” in the Greek is a combination word—a combination of “knowledge,” “feeling” and “will.”
- III. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS A WILL. I Corinthians 12:11, “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” He has a will! In other words, He can decide. A conscience cannot do this; only a person can.
- IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT LOVES. Romans 15:30, “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.” He loves! He loves us! He wants us to love Him.
- V. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS INTELLIGENT AND GOOD. Nehemiah 9:20, “Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.” You will find two attributes given to the Spirit of God here—the attribute of intelligence and the attribute of goodness. In other words, He does things for us, and He is an intelligent being. Again, He could not be our conscience and have these attributes.
- VI. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN BE GRIEVED. Ephesians 4:30, “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Notice, He can be grieved. He can be disappointed in us. He can be sad because we do certain things, and these things are listed in verse 31.
- VII. THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS US WHAT TO PRAY. Romans 8:26, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” He tells us what to pray. There are times when we come to God that we do not know exactly for what we ought to pray. The Holy Spirit tells us. Conscience could not do this. This is once again evidence of His personality and His being a person.
- VIII. THE HOLY SPIRIT COMFORTS. John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” The Holy Spirit comforts us. It is He Who gives us strength for weakness. It is He Who gives us comfort when we are sad. It is He Who gives us our power when we are unable to operate in our own strength.

IX. THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS. Romans 8:9, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” This means He prevents loneliness.

CONCLUSION: The important thing to teach our pupils is that the Holy Spirit is not our conscience; He is a person as real and definite as any of us. The above attributes prove the same.