

Review from close of last section:

- The Kingdom of God
 - Millennium, Tribulation, Rapture, 2nd Coming
- Heaven
 - New heaven, new earth, new you
- Hell
 - Interesting question: Can redemptive positioning like the patriarchs of old (who hoped and had faith in the promise) be applied to current hope in those who call on the Lord but don't know Jesus?
 - Can the seed of Christ be born in someone without them knowing the name of Jesus? (Can they have a relationship with the person, at some salvific level, and not know the name)
- In the end, the fundamental question to ask is whether the life of the kingdom (and the King), in some way, at some level exists in us. Because He who began that good work in you will see it to completion (Phil 1:6). Eternal life is a kingdom life that begins here and carries us to the next. A life in God that doesn't cease.

This leads us to the new section of this course – The Spirit and Children of God.

- The person and work of the Holy Spirit and the incarnational life in God

The Person of the Spirit

The third person of the Trinity is indeed just that...a person (not an "it")

- John 14:15-17 - Another
 - Plurality in God
 - "parakletos" = *one who appears in another's behalf, mediator, intercessor, helper*
 - Spirit of Truth – so we worship in spirit and truth. Word and Spirit go together. Worship is a "Spirit-filled" experience
 - Indwells in the life of the new covenant believer
 - Sent by the Father – equal but subordinate (because Spirit and Son emanate from the Father. But this emanation has no start time. God has always been expressive in sending forth His Spirit.)
- Gender associations of the Spirit
 - Interesting Question: While gender is helpful to articulate attributes of God, does God (who is Spirit-John 4:24) have gender in the way we think of human gender? Is that part of the being created in the image of God? And if so, does the divine family (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) correlate with our concept of family?
 - The Greek word for Spirit is pneuma – which is neuter
 - But the modifiers and related words (like parakletos) are given in masculine forms, and thus are translated as "he, him, his"
 - The "He will guide you" matches the gender of parakletos, not neuter like pneuma)
 - Ruach (Hebrew word for spirit) is feminine (and is in Aramaic as well)
 - In Hebrew, modifiers of a word that can be either masculine or feminine can indicate the gender intent of the author
 - These are actually predominantly in feminine form in OT

The Spirit and the Children of God, pt.1 – The person and work of the Holy Spirit

- There are at the very least feminine aspects of the Spirit
 - Male and female he created them [in his image] – so femininity is at least not-ungodly
 - Helper in creation – also the function given to Eve for Adam (as they are together in God's image)
 - Wisdom – which is a gift & anointing of Spirit - is feminine in form (**Luke 7:35** Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.)
 - Womb imagery (see below)

Spirit and Word connection (Spirit as a womb for the Word)

- Spirit as fertile soil for the seed (Word – remember logos as seed, word, expression, exact form of God)
 - Gen 1:2-3, Num 11:25, Luke 1:35
- What does Luke 8:9-15 tell us about the role of the Spirit in the receiving Christ and the relationship between the Spirit and the heart (see also Ezek 36:26 and Jer 31:33)
- Word as self-expression of God that was spoken into creation requires we look at Spirit's relationship to creation as a whole
 - Rom 8:18-25 – creation longing for redemption, first fruits of the Spirit, process is like childbirth (a theme associated with Spirit-see above)
 - Why is it important for all creation to be redeemed in glory? (God's creation = good. Redeemed = reinstated.)
 - Nurtures the seed and provides the nutrients to grow and bear fruit. Sanctification by the Spirit - 2Thess 2:13, 1 Peter 1:2. (*more on this in future lectures also*)

Assignment:

Write a brief paragraph or two on how understanding feminine aspects of the divine might help your ministry and/or the people you are ministering to