

EKKLESIA

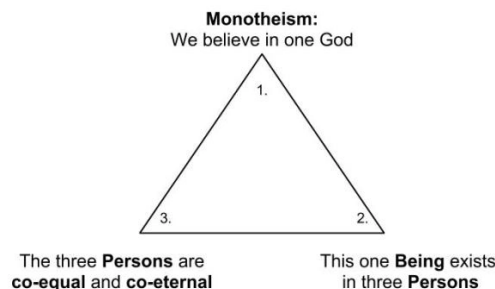
We Are the Spirit-Sealed and Spirit-Filled

Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- Open in prayer.
The church is our family. Our longing for connection, for community, and for unity is because of the Holy Spirit. There would be no ekklesia (called out ones) without the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Why does He matter to you?

- He is YHWH (God), along with the Father and the Son. (Read Exodus 3:14-15)
- Read Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission).
 - Discuss how Jesus' statement "make disciples of every nation" gives intentionality to our statement that we should be mission-shaped in all areas of life.
 - Look at the chart below on Monotheism and discuss the following questions:
 - Why does Jesus say, "in the name (singular) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (plural)"?
 - Read and discuss John 16:7 (Who is our counselor—helper, advocate?)
 - Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Jesus rescues us and then empowers us through the Holy Spirit".



What is God the Holy Spirit's role in your life?

- He seals and secures you in Jesus' multiethnic family for the praise of His glory.
- Read Ephesians 1:13-14.
 - Pastor Derwin said when we are forgiven we get a new identity in Christ. What is true about Jesus is true about us. What does this look like in our lives daily?
 - Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "If you want to know how much you're loved, look at the outstretched arms of Jesus and His infinite, inexhaustible love that is revealed on the cross.
 - What is Paul referring to when he said in verse 14, "The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession...?"

How Does God the Holy Spirit Work in Your Life?

- He forms the character of the Messiah in you.
- Read Galatians 5:16, 19-21, 22-24. (NOTE: Paul is speaking to Christians in this letter.)
 - What does it look like for us to “walk in the Spirit”?
 - Discuss how the works of the flesh goes against the fruit of the Spirit. (HINT: Things I do to get my way and satisfy my flesh.)
 - Discuss how the “fruit of the Spirit” allows Jesus to be seen in and through us as His family, His ekklesia.
 - What does it look like for you to walk in the Spirit and allow the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in your everyday life? (Share some real-life examples)
- He gives you spiritual gifts for the good and unity of the Church.
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-14.
 - When we say yes to Jesus, God the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts.
 - Why do we envy other people’s gifts?
 - Why is it important to remember that spiritual gifts are given for the good and unity of the church? (All of life is worship.)

How Do You Access the Spirit’s Power?

- By asking to be filled by Him.
- Read Ephesians 5:15-21.
 - When you come to know Jesus, you are baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - Discuss Pastor Derwin’s statement, “Being filled by the Holy Spirit is an everyday experience...it can’t be on cruise control”. (HINT: Soul-tattoo)
 - According the Ephesians 5:19-21, what does it look like to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Soul-tattoo: Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily.

Additional Resources:

- “Open to the Spirit” by Dr. Scot McKnight
- “The Gifts of the Spirit” by Dr. Ken Boa (Bible.org/article/gifts-spirit)