

God's Spirit, Jesus' Church

John 14-16

CORE
Convictions

are truths imbedded by the Holy Spirit in the heart of a disciple of Jesus Christ, by which she/he understands what is uncompromisingly important, and lives accordingly.

**God**

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory (cf. Article 1)

**The Bible**

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (cf. Article 2)

**Our Condition**

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed. (cf. Article 3)

**Jesus Christ (Person)**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate. (cf. Article 4)



Jesus Christ (work)

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins.

His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. (cf. Article 5)



The Holy Spirit (Article 6)

The Church (Article 7)



This morning, we take up the 6th and 7th of our core convictions: The Holy Spirit, and the Church.

Prayer

Monday last was Veteran’s Day, and the week of days which follow is being increasingly recognized as “Veteran’s Week.” An opportunity for our nation to thank the women and men who have served our country through service in one of our military branches.

It was 3 years ago, in 2017, that our U.S. Navy commissioned 8 new naval vesselsⁱ to join our country’s Naval Fleet. Those commissioned vessels were:ⁱⁱ

This Independence-class littoral combat ship was commissioned on June 10, 2017. Armed with a 57mm gun, the SeaRAM point-defense system, and some .50-caliber machine guns, speed and power



USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10)

USS John Finn (DDG 113)



Named after a sailor who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the first of the newly restarted Arleigh Burke-class destroyers was commissioned on July 15, 2017.

USS Gerald R. Ford



This nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the first in her class, entered service on July 22, 2017. This ship was supposed to replace USS Enterprise (CVN 65) in 2015, but was delayed. She is slated to make her first deployment in 2020.

USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115)



This destroyer, named for a posthumously awarded Navy Cross recipient Rafael Peralta from Operation Iraqi Freedom, entered the Navy on July 29, 2017.

USS Lewis B. Puller



The USS Lewis B. Puller was commissioned on Aug. 17, 2017 at Khalifa bin Salman Port in Al Hidd, Bahrain, making it the first U.S. ship to be commissioned in foreign territory. A floating base for Navy Seals.

USS Washington (SSN 787)



This Virginia-class (nuclear powered, fast-attack) submarine was commissioned on Oct. 7, 2017 and she has a big legacy to live up to.

USS Portland (LPD 27)



This ship, the 11th San Antonio-class amphibious ship, was delivered to the Navy on Dec. 14, 2017



USS Little Rock (LCS 9)



Commissioned on Dec. 16, 2017, this Freedom-class littoral combat ship will be the fifth vessel of its class to serve in the Navy.

Our Navy veterans could tell you that the [United States Navy](#) has over 490 ships in both active service and the reserve fleet, with approximately 90 more in either the planning and ordering stages or under construction.ⁱⁱⁱ In 2017, for the first time (2017)^{iv}, our military deployed 7 of our nuclear powered aircraft carriers simultaneously in strategic waters around the world. There is, for each of these ships, an important moment when their construction is finished. Each ship is named^v and commissioned. When a vessel is commissioned, it immediately moves into active service, to accomplish the mission of the United States Navy. Each ship is commissioned to

“[the objective of] maintaining, training and equipping combat-ready **Naval** forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.”^{vi}



That (of course) is an important mission, not only for our country, but for the peace and safety of our world. That's why we train men and women, build ships, and maintain a strong U.S. Navy. And that is why we commission...**or purposefully send**...the personnel we train and the ships we build *out into* a difficult and dangerous world. There are wars to win. Aggression to be deterred, freedom to be maintained. So here's the question.

**What happens when the God the Holy Spirit
does what God the Father and God the Son
commissioned Him to do?**

In other words, what's the mission of God the Holy Spirit,
and what does it have to do with Jesus' body, his team of disciples?

John^{14: 12} "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you another Helper**, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John ^{15:26-27} "But when the Helper comes, **whom I will send to you** from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who **proceeds from the Father**, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John ^{16:7-11} Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.^{vii}

Originally spoken to 11 men who were about to be asked to lead a world-wide movement, a movement called "the church." But God the Father and God the Son knew this crew couldn't do it alone. They knew that the only way these disciples could be instruments to change the world was that God the Holy Spirit must be commissioned. Sent to them to accomplish the mission.

So what has He been commissioned to do?

GLORIFY JESUS: To glorify Jesus,
the HS shepherds me through a renovation of life-change

ENERGIZE THE BODY: The Spirit unifies a
team under Jesus to express the gospel of life-change.

For just a few moments, let's understand what each of these commissionings mean.

**1st - GLORIFIES JESUS: To glorify Jesus,
the HS shepherds me through a renovation of life-change**

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service. (Article 6)

How does the Holy Spirit “glorify” (make larger, clearer, brighter) Jesus in this world?

- 1) **CONVICTS** the world of their need of Christ – John 16:8-11 legal language/makes the case
And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged
- 2) **REGENERATES** sinners – Titus 3:5-6 (creates new life from above within)
But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the **washing of regeneration** and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior (John 3:3-7)
- 3) **BAPTIZES** into Christ – 1 Corinthians 12:13 (immerses us/joins us into Christ)
For in one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
- 4) **ADOPTS** into God’s family – Romans 8:15
For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of **adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”
- 5) **INDWELLS** each believer/disciple– 2 Timothy 1:14, 1 Cor 6:19-20
By the Holy Spirit who **dwells** within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- 6) **ILLUMINATES** our understanding – 1 Corinthians 2:12
Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.
- 7) **GUIDES** each son/daughter – Romans 8:13-14
For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
- 8) **EMPOWERS** from inside > out – Ephesians 3:14,16
For this reason I bow my knees before the Father...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Jesus is glorified when my life is Holy-Spirit renovated. Last week, Pastor Kyle’s key point was simple: **Jesus changes everything**. He’s right about that. And the way Jesus changes our lives is through the persistent, very present work of God the Holy Spirit who is out to do a complete “fixer-upper”^{viii} on your life and mine. Craig Barnes recalls that when he was...

a child, my minister father brought home a 12-year-old boy named Roger, whose parents had died from a drug overdose. There was no one to care for Roger, so my folks decided they'd just raise him as if he were one of

their own sons.

At first it was quite difficult for Roger to adjust to his new home--an environment free of heroine-addicted adults! Every day, several times a day, I heard my parents saying to Roger:

"No, no. That's not how we behave in this family."

"No, no. You don't have to scream or fight or hurt other people to get what you want."

"No, no, Roger, we expect you to show respect in this family."

And in time Roger began to change.

Now, did Roger have to make all those changes in order to become a part of the family? No. He was made a part of the family simply by the grace of my father.

But did he then have to do a lot of hard work because he was in the family? You bet he did. It was tough for him to change, and he had to work at it. But he was motivated by gratitude for the incredible love he had received.

Do you have a lot of hard work to do now that the Spirit has adopted you into God's family? **Certainly.** But not in order to become a son or a daughter of the heavenly Father. No, you make those changes because you are a son or daughter. And every time you start to revert back to the old addictions to sin, the Holy Spirit will say to you, "No, no. That's not how we act in this family."^{ix}

God's Spirit is on a mission to glorify Jesus through a renovation of life-change. That's key

2nd ENERGIZES JESUS' BODY: The Spirit unifies a team under Jesus to express the gospel of life-change.

The Church (unity)

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are **united by the Holy Spirit** in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly **express the gospel**. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

(Article 7)

There are two phrases I lift from that statement that summarize for me what the Holy Spirit does in the Body of Jesus. He unifies them, that they might powerfully express the gospel (repeat).

We say it like this – **We are here** (this united body of believers) **to connect people in life-defining relationships in Christ** (to powerfully express the gospel). That's why we GATHER. This is why we CONNECT. Here's why we SERVE in all kinds of ministries and ways around this outfit.

We have a mission empowered by the Holy Spirit, to unify so that we can powerfully, fruitfully express the gospel.

Barbara, a sold-out disciple of Jesus in her church. The ministry had scheduled a series of outreach services, and members of the body came to offer guidance to those who ask for spiritual direction following each time together.

On the very last night of the play "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames," Barbara went to our fellowship hall and greeted a family--a mom, dad, and two boys, ages 10 and 12. Both of the boys accepted Christ as their Savior

as Barbara counseled them from the Bible and then led them in prayer. Afterward, the mom looked at Barbara and said, "You don't remember us, do you?"

Barbara looked at the boys and the mom, and finally recognized the mother as a patient in her busy OB/GYN practice. The mom hugged her with tears in her eyes and said, "You not only delivered both of our boys into the world years ago, but now you've also assisted in their spiritual birth."^x

SO...WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

That a core conviction in my life is that

***To GLORIFY JESUS,
God the Holy Spirit is on site to shepherd
me through a renovation of life-change
and***

***To ENERGIZE JESUS'S BODY,
God the Holy Spirit is on site
to unify this team to express the gospel***

Become more aware of what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your life

- if you're not a disciple, He wants to *regenerate*
- If you feel disconnected from God's people, He wants to be inside you a Spirit of Adoption
- If you've not been in His word, He wants to *illuminate* you
- If you've been under the direction of your flesh, He wants to *guide* you into living in His power
- If you need fresh legs for the next lap of the journey, He wants to *empower* you and show you more of the riches you have in Christ.

Dare to take some time and ask the Holy Spirit, "What do you want to do in my life? What renovation? What changes?"

Cooperate more with what He wants to do in your life. How?

- ✓ There's no doubt He wants to renew your mind! Cooperate by spending more time in the Bible, reading, thinking
- ✓ There's no doubt He wants to create more of Christ in you! Cooperate by asking spiritual companions to help you assess in what ways?
- ✓ There's no doubt He wants to extract from your life, my life the deeds of the flesh, and replace them with the fruit of the Spirit. Cooperate by let Him talk to you about what needs replacement.

Unite in the Spirit with this team in getting the mission done – to express the gospel that others might have and experience life

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ⁱ video of 8 commissioned ships in 2017 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORP1-VaJYQk>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.wereathemighty.com/lists/the-8-new-ships-the-navy-commissioned-this-year>

ⁱⁱⁱ according to the [Naval Vessel Register](#) and published reports.

^{iv} <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXYydMyn-uM>

^v https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_ship_naming_conventions

^{vi} <https://www.navy.com/contact?interest=joining-the-navy&activity=1228855> Mission stated also like this: To recruit, train, equip, and organize to deliver combat ready Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence.

^{vii} Jesus continued: *John 16:12-15* "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

^{viii} a reference to Chip and Joanna Gaines popular home-renovation business and show, "Fixer-Upper." <https://www.hgtv.com/shows/fixer-upper>

^{ix} Craig Barnes, author and pastor of National Presbyterian Church; Washington, D.C.; from sermon "The Blessed Trinity" (5-30-99), in *More Perfect Illustrations*

^x Citation: David Mahfouz, pastor of First Baptist Church; Port Neches, Texas, in *More Perfect Illustrations*