

Cheltenham
Ps Rob Buckingham
20 & 21 February 2016

SURRENDER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Message Notes

Text: John 16:7-16

1. The Holy Spirit in the World (8-11)

In verse 8 Jesus introduces three works that the Holy Spirit is responsible for in the world (that is, outside the Church) and then elaborates on them in verses 9 to 11. The Holy Spirit "*will **prove** the world to be in the wrong...*"

Prove = "*to convince with solid, compelling evidence, and show them to be guilty.*"

"When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment" (8)...

Sin – Only one sin to be judged!

(9) "*About sin, because people do not believe in me...*"

Christians sometimes get so picky with people about individual sins but there's only one sin that will be judged – the sin of rejecting the

Saviour. Sinners sin, and they need a Saviour not some Bible-bashing, finger-pointing Christian!

"What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?" (1 Cor. 5:12)

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19)

So, we need to surrender to the Holy Spirit. Our job is to love people and pray for them. His job is to prove them to be wrong about sin. Let's not get the roles reversed!

But the Holy Spirit doesn't leave people hanging in sin...

Righteousness – Only one-way to be saved!

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6)

I.e. Jesus is the only way to the only God!

(10) *"About righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer..."*

Judgment – Only one thing in the way!

(11) *"About judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned"*

John 12:31-33, *"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die"*

1 John 3:8, *"The reason that the Son of God was revealed was to destroy what the Devil has been doing."*

Colossians 2:15, *"having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."*
(Cf. Hebrews 2:14-15; Romans 8:38-39)

God calls His people to surrender to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to do His work in the world – to prove the need of a Saviour and to draw people to Jesus. We're also called to surrender to...

2. The Holy Spirit in the Church (12-16)

John 16:12-15

As we surrender to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives we will grow in...

Maturity (12-13)

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear."

As we mature in our Christian faith we can handle deeper truth...

1 Peter 2:2, *"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."*

1 Cor. 3:2, *"I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready"* (Cf. Heb. 5:11-14)

As we surrender to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives we will grow in maturity and also in intimacy...

Intimacy (14-15)

True friends in Jesus' day would share anything in confidence and know that their confidence was safe.

Jesus calls His followers into true friendship and intimacy. As we surrender to the Holy Spirit our confidences are safe with Jesus and He will share His friendship and confidences with us. The Holy Spirit will relate to you as Jesus related to His disciples. A believer's relationship with Jesus today should be no less intimate than the relationships He had with His disciples before the cross.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been guilty of Bible-bashing or pointing a finger because of someone's sin? What was the outcome?
2. Loving people and praying for them – and allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work – can really take the pressure off. Discuss

ways that this could help you in your workplace, school, University, or amongst your friends and family.

Read 1 Corinthians 5:12 and 2 Corinthians 5:19 in relation to this discussion.

3. The Holy Spirit's second work in the world is to prove them wrong about righteousness. People are made righteous purely through faith in the finished work of Jesus' death and resurrection, but many people believe they can please God by good works, going to church and not doing anything too bad. Have you ever thought that there may be other ways to be right with God? What finally brought you to a place of trusting Jesus alone for salvation?
4. The Bible makes it clear that the devil's works were defeated on the cross. Read and discuss John 12:31-33; 1 John 3:8; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15 and Romans 8:38-39. What do these Scriptures teach about how much power the devil still has?
5. The New Testament speaks about people who are at different stages of Christian maturity. Read 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:2 and Hebrews 5:11-14 and discuss where you're at on your journey to maturity. Is there anything standing in your way in growing deeper in your relationship with Jesus?
6. True friends in Jesus' day would share anything in confidence and know that their confidence was safe. Are you that sort of friend to others or do you struggle with gossip? Is there a toxic friendship that you need to put secure boundaries around?
7. Discuss this statement from the sermon, "*A believer's relationship with Jesus today should be no less intimate than the relationships He had with His disciples before the cross.*"