

God. I can't teach what I don't know. Ask me to teach you about quantum physics, and you'll get a very brief lesson. I can't teach you about something I know nothing about.

Thank God we have the Holy Spirit, God's personal presence with us, the third person of the Trinity. He is able to teach us about Jesus, he knows him and is known by him. He's able to teach me about relationships, about communication, love and trust because he along with the Father and the Son created them. The Holy Spirit's heart-beat is at one with

Jesus, so he is able to teach me to love as Jesus loves me. He's able to take it from some theory I know about, to be a living expression in all I say and do.

Thank God we have the Holy Spirit to teach us and not just collective ignorance to waffle on about. I thank God that we have the Holy Spirit and can get to know God through Jesus, as the Holy Spirit leads us through life, teaching us as Jesus disciples, using life lessons.

Let us pray.

Jesus thank you for the Holy Spirit. Open our minds, hearts and soul to be lead by him so that we get to grow closer to you, that we grow a healthy mature relationship with you, and also with the people you surround us with. Thank you that we don't face life on our own but that you have sent the Holy Spirit to be there always. Thank you that as we grow as your disciples, being lead through life by the Holy Spirit, so we are able to live out the relationship we have with you. Thank you that we can find peace here, knowing you, and letting that shape all our relationships that they are an expression of you. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' Disciples, who grow disciples, who grow disciples, who grow disciples...

29 May 2011

## WHO IS THIS HOLY SPIRIT—4

John 14:15-21



What do we learn about the person of the Holy Spirit from the gospel reading for this morning?

We can see four aspects of the Holy Spirit's character; first that he is like Jesus, second he wants to be there alongside of us in life, thirdly he loves peace and fourthly he is a teacher.

In the gospel reading for today Jesus said; "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another *advocate* to help you and be with you forever." (John 14:16)

The phrase 'another advocate' indicates that the one Jesus sends will be like himself. The Holy Spirit isn't some blow-hard who's off doing their own thing. That's the essence of

sin; doing your own thing independent of God. That's not the Holy Spirit; he lives in harmony with Jesus. They work together and for the same goal, the Father's will. And the Father's will is that we are saved, saved from wandering off and getting lost doing our own thing. Doing our own thing at the expense of God's love and at the expense of other people.

The Holy Spirit creates community, not a bunch of strongly independent people, doing their own thing. The Holy Spirit has the same heart beat as Jesus, to bring people together, to share life intimately together, enjoying each other's company, being prepared to die for each other as the norm of love for each other.

The second characteristic about the Holy Spirit is that he is our 'advocate'. Someone who seeks to come alongside of us, to assist us. The Holy Spirit is revealed by Jesus as someone who doesn't get going when the going gets tough. He's the complete opposite. When life gets to its worst, he's there. You're not facing this on your own, he's there. You don't have to have all the answers, he's there. And the Holy Spirit knows the way forward. No matter how tough the going gets, he stays there to support us, to encourage us, to give us Jesus wisdom to face the days ahead.

As Jesus promised; "I will not leave you as orphans." (John 14:18) I won't leave you

comfortless, but I'll send the Holy Spirit, with my same love for you, to walk with you, to share his life with you.

The Holy Spirit is our mate. The Holy Spirit is our friend. Not a fair-weather friend, but one who is there in the sunshine and in the storms. One who is there in the autumn and spring times of your life. With the Holy Spirit I'm never left in isolation, he's there always to encourage, to support, to listen, to offer his words of wisdom. He is the ultimate mate.

And so just like Jesus, the Holy Spirit brings peace. Jesus was born, 'The Prince of Peace'. So the Holy Spirit brings this peace into our lives. Jesus idea of peace isn't the absence of conflict, but life lived to the full with God and with each other. Peace is found in right relationships, and

in Jesus we now have a right relationship with God and the heart-beat of a right relationship with each other.

Have you ever noticed how when your key relationships are strong life is good? But when your relationships are in turmoil, stressed, conflicted, envious,

hurting, then the rest of life loses its shine, no matter how much you have.

The Holy Spirit seeks to build and maintain healthy relationships; between us and God and between each other.

Have you ever noticed that the New Testament is full of 'one another' phrases? They're phrases which show God's heart-beat is healthy relationships. Here's a few: "A new

commandment I give you; Love one another." (Jn 13:34) "Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." (Rom. 12:10) "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another." (Rom 14:13) "...so that there should be no division in the body (of Christ) but that its parts should have equal concern for each other." (1 Cor. 12:25) "...serve one another humbly in love." (Gal.5:13)

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2) "Be completely humble and gentle: be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Eph. 4:2) "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Eph. 4:29) "Be kind and compassionate

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### The Holy Spirit is our Mate

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to one another, forgiving each other." (Eph. 4:32) "Submit (do your best, voluntarily) to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Eph. 5:21) "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Col. 3:13) "Therefore encourage one another with these words." (1 Thess. 4:18)

Of course if we lived in a world where we had healthy relationships; a healthy relationship with God and with each other, we would live in a world without conflict. I wouldn't be out to simply get what I want; I'd be looking to how I could show God's love in Jesus in every situation and to every person. What a world that would be. I think that is Jesus' definition for his

community of faith, what we call church! It's not impossible, for with Jesus nothing is impossible. You're not dreaming, in Jesus we have that right relationship with God to start from and grow into. With the Holy Spirit, I have that relationship on tap, so I

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### The Holy Spirit shares life with us

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can live it out, drawing on his strength, so that I can seek to be living out all these wonderful 'one another' phrases. Especially the hard ones; like admitting when I'm wrong and asking for forgiveness. Like giving of my best so that someone else will benefit. What are the hard ones for you? Talk to the Holy Spirit about them over lunch today, and invite him to grow you so that your life is more and more

an expression of Jesus' love, grace and mercy. The fourth quality of the Holy Spirit is that he is a great teacher. Jesus said; "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (Jn 14:25,26)

I find it comforting to know that my life isn't some aimless drifting, but that God is at work, growing me, maturing me, so that I become more and more the person he has dreamed possible.

One quality you need before you teach is to know the subject, so you can lead people into understanding the topic. And then to understand how that fits into their lives.

On my own I cannot teach anyone about