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Section: Doctrine of Salvation (Christology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q92. Is the Triune God united in providing salvation for the elect?**

Yes. Based on God having one eternal will, each of the three Persons carries out the same plan of salvation and judgment. God the Father chose the elect before the foundation of the world, Jesus died exclusively for those elect people, and the Holy Spirit only regenerates those same elect people.

* **The Triune God Has One Eternal Will**

We know that God exists eternally as one God, three persons.

**John Owen:** “It is true, the will of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is but one. It is a natural property, and where there is but one nature there is but one will.”

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God… He works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable and completely righteous will for his own glory.”

**Herman Bavinck:** “The persons, though distinct, are not separate. They are the same in essence, one in essence, and the same being. They are not separated by time or space or anything else. They all share in the same divine nature and perfections. It is one and the same divine nature that exists in each person individually and in all of them collectively. Consequently, there is in God but one eternal, omnipotent, and omniscient being, having one mind, one will, and one power.”

**Deuteronomy 6:4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

**John Gill:** “…a trinity of persons in the unity of the divine essence, the Father, Word, and Holy Spirit, which three are one; the one God, the one Jehovah….”

The three persons of the Godhead are in perfect unity.

The three persons of the Trinity; the eternal Father, the eternal Jesus, the eternal Holy Spirit, have one eternal will and are in perfect agreement on all things because of this.

* **Each of the Three Persons Carries Out the Same Plan of Salvation and Judgment**
* **God the Father Chose the Elect Before the Foundation of the World**

**Ephesians 1:4-5** …[God] chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us…

**John 6:39** “And this is the will of him [God the Father] who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all [all those God the Father chose] that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”

* **Jesus Died Exclusively for Those Elect People**

**John 10:15, 27-30** [Jesus said] “…I lay down my life for the sheep.” “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

**Ephesians 5:25** ...Christ loved the church [that is, the elect] and gave himself up for her.

* **The Holy Spirit Only Regenerates Those Same Elect People**

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit [the Holy Spirit] within you ...”

**Titus 3:5** [God] 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,

The Triune God is united in providing salvation for the elect. Based on God having one eternal will, each of the three Persons carries out the same plan of salvation and judgment.

* **Order of Salvation (Ordo Salutis)**

**Romans 8:29-30** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Step 1: **Election & Predestination**

Step 2: **General Call**

Step 3: **Effectual Call/Regeneration**

Step 4: **Conversion (Saving Faith: repentance and trust in Christ alone)**

Step 5: **Justification**

Step 6: **Adoption**

Step 7: **Perseverance and Progressive Sanctification**

Step 8: **Final Glorification**

**Q93. What is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and when does it happen?**

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the action by which God takes up permanent residence in the body of an elect person at regeneration.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

**Romans 8:11** If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**1 Corinthians 6:19** … do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

**John 14:17** …the world cannot receive [Him], because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

**John Gill:** “‘he dwells with you’ [means the Holy Spirit] is an inhabitant in your hearts, he has taken up his residence in you as his temples and ‘will be in you’ [means the Holy Spirit will be] as a Comforter….and as a spirit of truth to guide you into all truth, to stand by you, and assist you in preaching it, and to enable you to bear a faithful and glorious testimony for it.”

* **The indwelling of the Spirit: true before and after the cross**

**Dr. Nettles:** “All of those [prior to Christ coming in flesh and the New Covenant being formally established] that had the persevering faith leading to eternal life could not have been void of the Spirit of God. Both faith and faithfulness are the fruit of the Spirit’s operations…”

**Romans 8:9**…Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

**Dr. Nettles:** “establishes a condition of moral necessity true of any believer in any age. … Regeneration and indwelling are operations of the Spirit morally necessary for faith and perseverance in that faith.”

* **Understanding the “Coming of the Spirit” type passages**

**John 16:7** “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.”

**Dr. Nettles:** “Some operations of the Spirit [such as the indwelling of the Spirit in the regenerated elect] are common to believers under both the Old and New Covenants for they are essential, morally necessary, for the presence of eternal life. Then there are some operations of the Spirit that clearly mark out the New Covenant people and era from the Old. These functions are not morally necessary for the presence of eternal life… The Spirit is necessary for one to believe in Christ, belong to Christ, to mortify the flesh, to advance spiritual life, and to persevere in a fruitful knowledge of Christ. Clearly operative in an effectual manner among the Old Covenant elect was the Spirit in the ministry of regeneration and indwelling.”

* **The formal establishment of the New Testament church**

**Dr. Nettles:** “Jesus speaks of the Spirit’s coming in the fulfillment of the New Covenant, creating a people as a community… The Spirit had not yet been given in that way, as the creator of the community… In the New Covenant, God would secure for Himself people as the unified local church that would, ‘consider how to stir up one another to love and good works’ (Hebrews 10:24)… The Christ has come to bring into one family both Jew and Gentiles and inhabit the whole of these communities, called churches. The Spirit brings [them] together and, by the truth and through his distribution of gifts, presents the entire community mature in Christ.”

* **The unique giving of miraculous (but temporary) gifts during the Apostolic period**

* **The advancement of the Spirit’s work in gifting, teaching, and sanctification in this now established New Covenant church**

**Dr. Nettles:** “Since the Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth, his operations in sanctification in the new covenant are more powerful and thorough than before the coming of Christ, for the shadows and types now are fulfilled and made clear by Christ’s appearing.”

**Dr. Nettles:** “As distinct from that remnant of true believers in Israel, the believers [in the New Covenant time] have the example of Christ, the teaching of Christ, the fullness of the revelation in Scripture, the community of saints (called the church) to exhort, reprove, and encourage, and the variety of gifts granted to the church by the Spirit in Christ’s ascension (Ephesians 4:1-7). After Christ’s ascension, this gift of the Spirit marked the new community and people that believed in him with corporate holiness, personal holiness, and gifts for teaching and order (1 Corinthians 12:3-13).”

**Dr. Nettles:** “When Jesus’ work reached its fullness in his ascension, the Spirit’s work can also reach its fullness in assurance and granting of gifts for the development of the universal Church as the body of Christ. … According to John 14:26 “He [the Holy Spirit] will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” Then in John 16:13, Jesus added, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” This is a [Holy Spirit] ministry of teaching.“

●      **Key ‘indwelling of the Holy Spirit’ scripture recap**

●      **Closing encouragement and exhortation**

Because the Holy Spirit dwells in you, all the benefits of being saved are made effectual for you. Here are some of those benefits:

- You are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

- You will remain saved because He can never leave you, He keeps you saved.

- You are forever adopted as a child of God.

- You have been sanctified and are progressively being sanctified (growing in Christlikeness).

- You are being effectually taught by the Holy Spirit.

- You are united to Christ and a part of His one body.

- The Holy Spirit who indwells you produces the fruit of the Spirit in you.

- You are gifted by the Spirit.

- Your body is a living dwelling of God the Holy Spirit.

* **Conclusion**

**Galatians 5:16-25**