

The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life

Pneumatology
Chapter 9

Most Neglected Doctrine?

- Renewed interest in the Holy Spirit in face of:
 - < Bureaucratization
 - < Desire for experiential and exciting faith
 - < Ecumenical concerns
 - < Important role of Holy Spirit in Old and New Testaments

Basic Sketch of Pneumatology

- Talk of Holy Spirit is talk of triune God (169)
- Missions of Son and Spirit
 - < Activities of Son and Spirit in creation, reconciliation, and redemption
- Processions of the Son and Spirit
 - < Does Holy Spirit proceed from only the Father (original Nicene creed)
 - < Or from Father and the son (filioque)?
 - < If from Father and Son, unity of Trinity is emphasized, but Spirit seems subordinated
 - < If from only the Father, then greater emphasis upon Holy Spirit, but seems to lessen role of Christ
- Migliore prefers eschatological model over procession model
 - < Jesus is both giver and receiver of Spirit

Basic Sketch of Pneumatology (Cont.)

- Doctrine of work of Spirit
- Re-presentative - making Christ present to believers
 - < Creating new life - agent of second birth
 - < Liberative - freedom from bondage and
 - < freedom for service to God
 - < Communal - power of new community, just as
 - < Spirit is bond of love between Father and Son

Doctrine of Work of Spirit (Cont.)

- Promise of "firstfruits" - guarantee of future God is bringing
- Gifts of the Spirit are diverse, most important are faith, hope, and love
- Female imagery of Spirit - reminds us of nurturing, empowering role of Spirit
 - < Word and Spirit as son and daughter of God
 - < God is beyond gender

The Christian Life

- "Christian life is based in our union with Christ and is empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit" (174)
 - Justification
 - Sanctification
 - Vocation

Justification (175)

- Justification is God's gracious forgiveness of sins received by faith alone
 - < Objective side is sola gratia
 - < Subjective side is sola fide
- Making Right or "right-wising" (not quite same as "acquitting")
- God makes us "somebodies" -- liberation

Sanctification (177-182)

- "Sanctification is the process of growth in Christian love" (177)
 - < Love = agape, a love that is committed and steadfast, and a gift from God

Marks of Growth in Sanctification

- Maturing as hearers of the Word of God
 - < Assuming responsibility for interpreting Scripture anew
- Maturing in prayer
 - < Open, honest, communication that even includes complaining and anger (psalms)
 - < Lord's prayer (see handout)

Marks of Growth in Sanctification (cont.)

- Maturing in freedom
 - < Freedom from fear of having to win God's favor along with freedom for service to God and neighbor
- Maturing in solidarity
 - < *Metanoia* or turning around, from our selfcenteredness to other-centeredness
 - < Especially solidarity with undesirables

Marks of Growth in Sanctification (cont.)

- Maturing in thankfulness and joy
 - < Dramatized in the eucharistic meal
 - < "Eucharist" literally means thanksgiving

Vocation (182-184)

- Vocation comes from the Latin word for "calling"
- Sanctification involves responding to God's calling to be a "partner in mending God's creation"
 - < Not a privilege as much as a responsibility
 - < Vocation is not a career and may or may not be expressed by one's job choice
- "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called..." (Ephesians 4:1)