

Paul , the Spirit and the People of God by Fee

Chp 3 --The Holy Who? The Spirit as a Person:

1. Understanding the personhood of the Spirit is something most Christian's struggle with, what imagery, illustrations or experiences have helped inform your understanding the Spirit as distinct person in the Trinity?
2. Fee spends some time laying out argument on the different ways Paul either assumed or acknowledged the personhood of the Spirit by listing out the some verbs associated with the work of the Spirit as requiring a personal agent: searches, knows, teaches, dwells, accomplishes, gives life, cries out, leads, bears witness, has desires, helps, intercedes, works, strengthens and is grieved. Do we in our church commonly associate these actions with the Spirit? If not why do you think that?
3. Fee spends some time on the Spirit's role as an intercessor between us and the Father? Is this how you have previously understood it to work?
4. Even though the Spirit is sometimes referred to by Paul as the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit is most often referred to the Spirit of God by Paul, what does Fee think is significant about that and the mystery of the Trinity?
5. How can we begin to wrap our heads around present personal Spirit? Fee posits a few ways it should affect us. What do you think of his list?
6. Do you agree that church that understand the Spirit as personal present agent is better able to engage in a post-modern world?
7. Fee closes the chapter with these words: "We must not merely cite the creed, but believe and experience the presence of God in the person of the Spirit." Those are fighting words. What do you believe he means by that as Pentecostal speaking to a wider evangelical community?