

Jesus wants the world to know that he loves the Father. He wants the world to know that he has done everything the Father sent him to do. This is why he sent the Holy Spirit. It is the basic message the Holy Spirit delivers. It is that Christ has loved the Father. He has loved the Father by obeying the Father. He became flesh, bore the sin of mankind, suffered and died for our sins, and commended himself into his Father's hands. This obedience of the Son is what the Holy Spirit declares to all the nations in the gospel. As we sing in Psalm 98, "His righteousness has he openly shown to the nations."

To say that Jesus has loved the Father is to say he has forgiven us of our sins. It is to say that he loved us poor sinners all the way to death. Because this is what his Father sent him to do. The Son has always loved the Father. The Father has always loved the Son. In God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, has always existed perfect and eternal love. But now Jesus says that he wants the world to know this. So he sent his Holy Spirit to declare this love.

We don't know this love by our imagination. The Holy Spirit doesn't point us to our own spiritual feelings and intuition. We don't define the Son's love for the Father by our own standards of love. No, the Holy Spirit bears witness to Christ, to his incarnation, his patient endurance, compassion, mercy, and righteousness. He bears witness to the cross, suffering, and death of God's Son. Because it was there where God's love was perfected. It was there where God's anger against sin was satisfied. There, the fire that comes down from heaven to consume all filthiness and lack of love was poured out on the beloved Son of God. This is how Jesus wants us to know his love for the Father. It is that he obeyed him unto death, even the death of the cross.

Such obedience is what the Holy Spirit declares to us. This is how he is our Comforter. Jesus says, "The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of everything I told you." He said this to his disciples, but it is through the words he gave to his disciples that this promise also applies to us. As Jesus would later pray to his Father right before his death, "I'm not praying for them only but also for those who through their word believe in me" (John 17:20).

It is through the words given to the Apostles that the Holy Spirit continues to teach us everything about Jesus. He gives us faith to believe and trust in Christ's promises. He fills our hearts with love for Christ and for one another. He thereby teaches us to be humble. Don't seek to get even with those who hurt you. Turn the other cheek. Walk the extra mile. Pursue peace with your fellow believers and pray for those who persecute you. This is the love of Christ, which the Holy Spirit teaches us.

2 Pentecost – John 14:23-31

You see, the Holy Spirit isn't just teaching us how to behave like Christians. Of course, he is doing this. He is teaching us how to conduct ourselves in this world, to beware of false teachings and to resist the temptations of the world that would defile us and turn us away from Christ. The Holy Spirit wants us to be pure, not giving into sexual immorality, drunkenness, and other such things. But in teaching us this how to walk in this life, the Holy Spirit is simply pointing us to Christ. He is presenting before us the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us.

This is why Jesus summarizes it all in these words, "I want the world to know that I love the Father and am doing just what the Father ordered me to do." This is at the heart of everything the Holy Spirit teaches us. Of course, he teaches us the law, which shows us where we have sinned and guides us to follow what is pleasing to God. But at the heart of all the Holy Spirit's instruction is that the Son has loved and obeyed the Father. It is that he has fulfilled the law for us. Such love and obedience of Christ was done on our behalf. As St. Paul says, "As one sin brought condemnation to all people, so one man's obedience brought righteousness and life to all people" (Rom 5:18).

With this at the center, the Holy Spirit therefore teaches us everything about Christ. He speaks through the prophets and Apostles, causing them to write down God's entire doctrine for our learning. All of this can be summarized in six chief parts. He teaches us to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves. He places us in various stations: as children obeying parents, spouses being faithful to one another, neighbors protecting one another's property, business, and reputation, and each being urged to stay and do his duty. While this law teaches us to fear, love, and trust in God and to love our neighbor, it also shows us how far we fall short and how much we need salvation. The Holy Spirit teaches us that our sinful condition is much worse than this world could lead us to realize. We are by nature dead in our sins. But our Father who created us has sent his Son to redeem us, and in Christ he makes us alive by the power of his Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit teaches us all of this. And yet, he isn't like any old teacher who merely goes through the subject matter. He himself is God proceeding from the Father and the Son. When he teaches us about the new life Christ has won for poor sinners, he is simultaneously giving us that new life. When the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray to our Father with the words Jesus taught to his disciples, he is all the while giving us the power to pray with a firm hope that God will answer. In fact, when we don't pray as we should, he is interceding for us with groaning that is too deep for words.

The Holy Spirit doesn't just teach us about a washing ceremony called baptism. Much more, he is right there in the Word joined to the water, giving us a new birth and a new life. He remains with us through that same Word and promise, strengthening us to repent and

3 Pentecost – John 14:23-31

believe every day. He doesn't just teach us to forgive those who sin against us. He doesn't just teach us to say we are sorry and admit when we are wrong. He is right there in the words of Christ who says, "Take heart, child! Your sins are forgiven!" He gives us the faith to believe these words. When we are struck with the terror of the law, the Holy Spirit is right there also applying the promise of God's grace in Christ. He isn't just teaching us about repentance. He leads to us repentance. He gives us true sorrow over sin and faith in Christ's forgiveness. He creates in us a new heart with new desires and joy in God's salvation.

The Holy Spirit teaches us what Christ has done for us. He doesn't let us forget that Christ has loved and obeyed his Father. In other words, he doesn't let us forget that Christ suffered and died and made satisfaction for our sins. He remains in Christ's words joined to the bread and wine. He guides us to take our Lord's words seriously and receive his testament with joy, "This is my body given for you . . . This is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins."

The Holy Spirit teaches us all of this. And he applies it to our daily lives. He wants all people, no matter where God has placed them, to know what Christ has done for them. This is why he caused the disciples to speak of Christ's works in all different kinds of languages. It's why he still to this day causes his Word to be translated into different languages. No matter what language you speak, what job you have, or what status in this world you hold, the Holy Spirit teaches you everything Christ has done and taught. He guides pastors to proclaim it to their parishioners, fathers to explain it to their families, mothers to teach it to their children, all Christians to confess it to their neighbors and friends, and believers to share it with one another. All that the Holy Spirit teaches comes down to this: Christ has loved the Father and obeyed everything he has ordered. In other words, Christ has accomplished our salvation. This is what God wants the world to know.

When the Holy Spirit teaches us the doctrine of our Savior, he is giving us peace. Even when you learn about the seemingly troubling or difficult parts of Scripture, the Holy Spirit does not cause anything of this to be written for nothing. His goal is always to give us peace and a good conscience. This is true even as we read about the various accounts of God's people recorded in the Bible. Whether he is warning you by the example of those who were punished for their unfaithfulness, or he is encouraging you by the example of those who trusted and bore their cross with patience, the Holy Spirit is always pointing you to Christ. And in this way, he is giving you peace.

This is what Christ leaves for us. It's what he sends the Holy Spirit to deliver to us. It is peace – not as the world gives, but as he gives it. The world accomplishes peace through wars, negotiations, and compromise. But Christ accomplished peace by loving his Father

4 Pentecost – John 14:23-31

and doing everything his Father ordered him. He has established peace between God and poor sinners by the blood of his cross. This is peace established in heaven toward us who don't deserve it. It is therefore peace in knowing that your sins are forgiven before God in heaven, peace in knowing that God has placed you where you are, that he is guiding you in this life, that he will work all things out for your good. It is peace in your conscience.

The Holy Spirit who came down on Christ's disciples at Pentecost with the rushing of great wind and fire is the same Holy Spirit who comes to us through the Word they proclaimed. He gives us peace in Christ and boldness to confess his name. This is why you don't have to be afraid when the world opposes this truth. The devil, whom Jesus calls the ruler of this world, has been judged. He doesn't have anything on Jesus. He therefore doesn't have anything on you. You know that Christ has loved the Father and has done all the Father sent him to do. So who is there to accuse you? The Father has already approved of what his Son has done for you. Christ has already gone to his Father with our salvation and redemption secured.

Therefore, if you love Jesus, then hold onto his words. Take refuge in them and learn from them. Because through these words, the Holy Spirit comforts you and gives you peace. He gives you the assurance that the Father himself loves you. God makes his home with you. He binds his congregation together as his holy temple. We therefore confess to the world what Christ has done. And we are not put to shame. Amen.