



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: God's Education for Man's Ignorance

Date: February 1, 2026

Scripture Text: John 16:5-11

Notes:

We continue our study of the book of John. The time of Jesus' crucifixion is approaching, and Jesus is giving His parting instructions to His disciples. He's letting them know that the time for His departure is nearing. But as sad as it was for the disciples to hear that Jesus would be leaving them soon, it was to their benefit for a Helper would be sent to replace Him. The presence of the Helper, known as the Holy Spirit, will be to our advantage as He will convict the world. The term 'conviction' means "the act of convincing a person of error or of compelling the admission of a truth". As we look at Jesus' instructions concerning "the Helper", let's consider what the Holy Spirit will be convicting the world of.

I. He Comes to Convict Us of the Character of Sin (John 16:8-9)

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would convict the world because they did not believe who Jesus was. As Kenneth Gangel states: "The work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians convicts unsaved people because their message radiates Christ. Unbelief is the condemning sin that closes the door to heaven and opens the door to hell. People do not go to hell because they smoke, drink, or curse but because they reject faith in Christ."

- Man is a sinner because of what he is ([Ephesians 2:3](#))
 - What are the items listed in [Eph. 2:3](#) that describe what we did before we were saved.
 - What does it mean that non-believers are "by nature children of wrath"?
 - What are the consequences of God's wrath?
- Man is a sinner because of what he has done ([James 2:10](#))
 - James highlights that no matter how much of the law someone could keep, if he stumbles in one area, he is guilty of breaking it all. No one has been able to keep all the law except one, Jesus.
 - What are examples of ways people try to get to heaven by doing "good things"?
 - Why are "good things" not sufficient?
 - What is the temptation to rely on our works instead of the works of Jesus for salvation?
- Man is a sinner because of what he won't do ([James 4:17](#))
 - [James 4:17](#) describes what are called 'sins of omission'. By sins of omission, the individual refuses to make a right response to God. A sin of omission displeases God just as much as a sin of commission, that is, a direct act against God's will.
 - What are examples of sins of omission?
 - How does the Holy Spirit help us know "the right thing to do"?



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II. He Comes to Convict Us of the Conquest of Sin (John 16:8, 10)

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of what true righteousness is. The world may believe in righteousness, but it is based on circumstance and personal belief, where the true righteousness of God is absolute and never changing. The Holy Spirit can produce God's righteous fruit in the lives of believers that is patterned after the life and righteousness of Jesus. The world does not see their need for Christ because they have a confused view of righteousness.

- [Galatians 2:21](#) states that if righteousness could be obtained apart from Christ, then He died needlessly.
 - How have you seen righteousness described by the culture?
 - How would you describe true righteousness?
- In [Isaiah 64:6](#), our righteous acts are described as filthy garments.
 - Isaiah's analogy is a picture of someone thinking they are wearing fancy clothes, but in reality, they are filthy rags.
 - How can we at times get distracted by the culture's perception of righteousness?
 - What can you do to make sure your perception of righteousness is accurate and that you aren't wearing filthy rags?

III. He Comes to Convict Us of the Consequences of Sin (John 16:8, 11)

The Holy Spirit will convict the world that the ruler of the world (Satan) is defeated as a result of the redemptive work of Christ and stands condemned. Satan is powerless because of Christ. And by the saving work of Christ, judgement awaits all who do not accept Him as their Savior and Lord.

- [Hebrews 9:27](#) states that we all will one day die. Following our death will be a day of judgment. For the Christian, they will be judged based on Christ's righteousness. For the non-believer, they will be judged based on their own righteousness.
 - What is the outcome of the judgement of the Christian?
 - What is the outcome of the judgement of the non-believer?
- Consequences of sin also include the temptations we encounter on a regular basis. Christ paid the price for our sins, but it does not mean we stop sinning. The Holy Spirit convicts us of those sins.
 - When we are convicted of our sin, what is the appropriate response?
 - How would you describe what repentance is?
 - How can we at times have a deaf ear to the convictions of the Holy Spirit?
 - How can we maintain open ears and soft hearts toward the convictions of the Holy Spirit?

"After Christ had completed his mission on earth, it still remained necessary that we should become partakers and sharers of the divine nature of the Word...this was something we could do only by sharing in the Holy Spirit." Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD)