

Fact Sheet for **“God’s Holy Spirit in Us”**  
**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

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We live as Christians in a non-Christian world. We hold the Bible to be the inspired word of God, and we aspire to live by it, but sometimes this puts us at odds with our culture. Today the politically correct sexual morality is LGBTQ. But this is not biblical morality! How should we as Christians respond... in our choices, in our words, and in our actions? In these six sermons I will focus on good theology rather than on detailing what is out there in our world.

We began this series by considering one facet of God’s character.

**ESV 1 John 1:5** This is the message we (*the apostles*) have heard from him (*Jesus*) and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

The grammar of the last words of this verse is very intense. John was saying that there was not even one miniscule measure of darkness (*evil, unrighteousness*) in God!

On the other hand we are very different. In the second sermon we focused on Original Sin (Genesis 2:16-17). When Adam and Eve disobeyed God the effects of sin in their lives were immediate and deeply invasive. And we are all recipients of that sin nature. The continuing story of Genesis 4-11 tells of the potent force of that sin nature (Genesis 6:5).

In this third sermon we will see an opposing force to this sin nature in the lives of Christians... God’s Holy Spirit in us. As we go through 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 think about this. The non-Christian world has the sin nature... but no indwelling Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 1-4 is about wisdom... man’s wisdom versus God’s wisdom. Let’s jump in to the middle of the Apostle Paul’s thoughts.

**ESV 6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

**9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—**

*This is a good interpretive, but not an exact reference to Isaiah 64:4.*

**10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.**

**11a For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him?**

**11b So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**

**12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words**

**not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.**

Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 John 3:24). But those who have not put their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins do not have the Holy Spirit of God indwelling them.

So what should we expect from the non-Christian world?

**<sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**

Take a closer look at that word “accept”. I’m going to give you a nuance of that word in the original text of the New Testament. Let’s start with two other English words... “receive” and “welcome”. What’s the difference between these two words? “Welcome” has that favorable emotional side to it that the word “receive” doesn’t have without supplying further context. The word “accept” in 1 Corinthians 2:14 can rightly be translated “welcome”. The person without the indwelling Holy Spirit does not **welcome** the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Not only do those without the Spirit not welcome the things of the Spirit, they also are not able to truly and fully know them.

Should we be surprised when the non-Christian world does not embrace biblical values? I’m more surprised when the non-Christian world espouses biblical values, at least for a season. You see, I am a firm believer in Original Sin and its effects. And I am a firm believer in the power of the Holy Spirit to change thoughts and lives.

Paul goes on.

**<sup>15</sup> The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.**

A person who both is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and who is guided by Him is able to evaluate and apply all things.

And in the final sense he will be judged by God, not by the unregenerate world or by worldly Christians.

**<sup>16</sup> "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**

Let’s take stock of where we have come so far in this series.

**1 – God is light, and in Him is absolutely no darkness at all.**

**2 – Every person has a sin nature that is both forceful and invasive.**

**3 – Only Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and so are more apt to welcome God’s thoughts.**

We’ve still got a little more theology to cover so stay tuned.