

Title: MADE FOR COMMUNION THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-14
(Chatham, NJ; 06/15/14, AM) [Pd – Inductive]

Theme: The fellowship with God that we lost in the Garden of Eden has been restored by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Purpose: To demonstrate that we were created for communion with God and that we can regain it in the church by the reception and continuing fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

I. Man: Greater than the Sum of His Parts

A. Image of God and the breath of life

1. Man lived when God breathed into him the “breath of life”
2. “Spirit” is wind in OT
3. John 3 brings out the comparison
4. Only when God did this was man a “living creature”
5. God’s Spirit animates and sustains all things, Ps. 104:29-30
6. Yet only man is made in God’s image, Gen. 1:27

B. Man Is Spirit, Mind, and Body

1. Scientific materialism denies the first, misunderstands the second, and idolizes the last (as does psychiatry which assumes chemical problems and treatments)
2. Plasticity (can be molded and shaped) characterizes the brain
3. The mind can remake neural pathways: brain scans confirm this
4. Mind not determined strictly by these chemical and biological patterns
5. Evolution has yet to figure out the origin of this consciousness

C. Related studies

1. Life itself is based on information systems: like computer hardware that won’t work without software (information to tell it what to do)
2. Needs three nonmaterial elements: grammatical language, information to transmit, and meaning and purpose
3. God “spoke” things into existence; Jesus is the Word
4. Information had to happen for the material to exist
5. Babies are born with a moral compass (*Salvo*, Summer 2014, p. 46): a degree of information is already in place before they are socialized
6. What this indicates: something in man transcends the physical

II. Man: Made for Communion with God

A. We are different than the animals

1. Dolphins don’t build civilizations
2. Monkeys don’t reflect on their existence (and don’t have anything close to a sophisticated language)
3. Eagles don’t produce art
4. The image of God is imprinted on and hardwired into us
5. This is our answer to: “Who are we?”
6. Beings made in the image of God to have fellowship with him

B. God with us in the Garden

1. Genesis 3:8 – God was walking in the Garden in the cool of the day
2. This was a pre-fall habit
3. He had already spoken to man about the expectations of living in the Garden

C. Fellowship severed by sin

1. Man thrown out of the Garden

2. Death entered the world
3. He was denied the tree of life
4. His relationship with God was severed

III. Man and God: the Reunion

- A. God in his fullness, Mt. 28
 1. Baptism in the Trinitarian formula: more than getting dunked
 2. In Christ the fullness of God lives, Col. 2:9-10
 3. In your baptism you encountered the living God and received his Holy Spirit as a gift, Acts 2:38

- B. Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 13:14
 1. As in Mt. 28 we see the Trinitarian formula
 2. Grace of Christ
 3. Love of God
 4. Fellowship (communion) of the Holy Spirit
 5. What we lost in the Garden, we regain by the presence of the Holy Spirit

Conclusions:

1. Made by God for communion with God.
2. Fellowship severed by sin.
3. We are reconciled by the cross, Col. 1:22.
4. In fellowship by the presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. As Paul says to the Corinthians: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."