

## The Holy Spirit Convicts and Purifies

**Opener:** When did you do something differently than you wanted to because you felt convicted?

**Scripture:** “When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment. <sup>9</sup>about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” John 16:8-11

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:5-13

### Discussion Questions

1. In John 16:8-11 Jesus laid the groundwork for understanding more about what the Holy Spirit does. In addition to His role in creation and empowering us, the Holy Spirit convicts and purifies. He literally proves that the world is wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. Why does He focus on convicting us about those three things? How do they work together to reveal who God is and what He requires?
2. How have you seen the Holy Spirit prove to the world that it’s wrong about sin, righteousness and judgment? How does this relate to the mission of the church?
3. How does He convict those who aren’t Christians, or does He? What part does being created in God’s image play in knowing right from wrong? How does the Holy Spirit convict Christians?
4. How can we discern what’s really true in a world where right and wrong have become relative? How can we know if we’re being led by the Holy Spirit or influenced by something else?
5. How can we take a stand for the truth as the Holy Spirit reveals it to us without being judgmental or harsh? Does God always want us to be vocal about what’s sinful? If not, what should our response be? How can we be loving without approving what’s sinful?
6. How does Romans 8:5-13 further explain how the Holy Spirit convicts and purifies His people when it emphasizes our mindset and obligation to submit to God’s standards?

**Wrap Up:** In John 16:8 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, who will “prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.” While our initial impression may be that the Holy Spirit is lowering the boom, in reality He’s lifting the veil. He’s literally revealing the truth about what standard we will be judged by in time for us to receive the salvation God has provided. Look at it like this: the Father set the standard, Jesus lived the standard, and now the Holy Spirit reveals that standard—to the world. There’s no greater love than that.