

The Spirit ITSELF

“The Spirit ITSELF beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

Is referring to the third person of the of the blessed Trinity, as “itself” a major error in the King James Bible, which borders on blasphemy?

Doug Kutilek is a well known critic of the KJB. He has both printed, and posted an article on the internet, which harshly criticizes this “supposed” error in the King James Bible.

Mr. Kutilek states: “Any honest evaluation of the King James Version leads to the conclusion that it has numerous defects as a translation, some major, most minor. But of these defects, among the most serious, quite probably the worst of the lot, is its occasional use of the English pronoun “it” to refer to the Holy Spirit.”

He continues, “I will plainly state my opinion on the matter: I think that here the KJV comes dangerously close to blasphemy, if it does not in fact actually wander into it.” He closes his article with these words. “Those who imagine that the KJV. . . is faultless and error-free are compelled to address the matter.”

The purpose of this article is to “address the matter”. I believe Mr. Kutilek’s objections to the use of “it” or “itself” in referring to the Holy Ghost are both hypocritical and ignorant. Hypocritical because there are many versions, including the modern ones, that use “itself” in either the very same verses or in the very same manner; and ignorant because he doesn't know the English language very well.

First, see how the Random House Webster’s College Dictionary of 1999 defines the use of the words “it” and “itself”. The second definition given for “itself” is: “used to represent a PERSON or animal understood, previously mentioned, about to be mentioned, or present in the immediate context - Who is it? It is John. . . Did you see the baby? Yes, isn’t it cute. . . the cat likes to sun itself in the window.”

The Websters 1967 Collegiate Dictionary defines “it”, as “a PERSON or animal whose gender is unknown OR DISREGARDED.” The Father and the Son are clearly masculine, but the Spirit is sometimes referred to as masculine and sometimes as neuter, not because He is neuter, but rather because the gender is disregarded or not taken into account in that particular context.

The four verses in the KJB that Mr. Kutilek criticizes are: John 1:32, Romans 8:16, Romans 8:26, and I Peter 1:11. We will examine these verses with other translations and then look at some examples in the new versions.

The first verse is John 1:32. “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending like a dove, and IT abode upon him.” Other Bible versions that agree with the KJB in their use of “it” are the Geneva Bible of 1599 and 1602, Bishops Bible 1568, Daniel Mace's N.T. 1729, Wesley's translation 1755, Whiston's Primitive N.T. 1745, Etheridge Translation 1849, Noyes Translation 1869, Emphatic Diaglott interlinear 1865, Darby 1870, Revised Version of 1881, American

Standard Version of 1901, Rotherham's Emphasized Bible 1902, the Douay of 1950, Henry Alford's translation, Young's 'literal' 1898, the 21st Century KJV of 1994, William's New Testament 1937, Lamsa's translation of the Syriac 1933, Daniel Webster's of 1833, the 20th Century New Testament, Weymouth's translation of 1912, Goodspeed's American translation 1943, the 1998 Third Millennium Bible, the Revised Standard Version of 1952, the New American Bible 1970, the NRSV of 1989, and the 2001 English Standard Version.

The second verse is Romans 8:16. "The Spirit ITSELF beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Versions that agree with the KJB are the Bishop's Bible 1568, Whiston's Primitive N.T. 1745, Webster's translation 1833, Alford's New Testament for English Readers 1868, Darby 1870, Rotherham's Emphasized Bible of 1902, The New Testament from the Sinaitic Manuscript 1918, Goodspeed 1943, The New American Bible 1991, the KJV 21st Century Version 1994, the Interlinear Greek N.T. by Larry Pierce 1997, the Lawrie Translation 1998, the Third Millennium bible of 1998, the NRSV of 1989, A Conservative Version 2001, the Urim-Thummin Version 2001, The Evidence Bible Ray Comfort 2002, the 21st Century Version 2002, The Faithful New Testament 2005, The Accurate New Testament 2008, The Apostolic Polyglot Bible, the Concordant Version 2006. Many of these Bible translations can be seen here:

<http://www.lookhigher.net/englishbibles/index.html>

The third verse is Romans 8:26. "But the Spirit ITSELF maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Again the 21st Century KJV 1994, the Emphatic Diaglott interlinear 1865, Alford's translation 1868, Noyes Translation 1869, the Bishop's Bible 1568, the Geneva Bible 1599 and 1602, Daniel Mace's N.T. 1729, Wesley's 1755 translation, Coverdale 1535, Whiston's Primitive N.T. 1745, Darby 1890, Webster's 1833, Rotherham's Emphasized Bible 1902, The New Testament Translated from the Sinaitic Manuscript 1918 Henry Anderson, Goodspeed 1943, the Third Millennium Bible 1998, A Conservative Version 2001 and The Urim-Thummin Version 2001 all read like the KJB - "the Spirit ITSELF".

The fourth verse is 1 Peter 1:11. "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when IT testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." Versions that agree with the use of "it" here are Alford's New Testament for English Readers 1868, Whiston's Primitive N.T. 1745, Noyes Translation 1869, the Revised Version of 1885, the American Standard Version of 1901, Webster's translation 1833, the Berkeley Version 1969, Basic Bible in English 1960, the New American Bible 1991, Douay-Rheims, the 1989 Revised English Version (Bruce Metzger), the NRSV of 1989, Modern Literal Version of the New Testament, 1999 by G. Allen Walker, the Context Group Version 2007, the Updated Bible Version 2003, the Evidence Bible (Ray Comfort) 2003, the Interlinear Hebrew-Greek Scriptures 2008 and the Revised English Version of 2010.

So we see that many Bible versions which both predate and follow after the King James Holy Bible have used "it" and "itself" to refer to the Spirit of God. This is perfectly acceptable

English, and a very accurate translation. Those who criticize the King James Bible for doing this only show their own ignorance of the English language. They also demonstrate their own blind pride that places their own minds and defective understanding above that of numerous other bible translators throughout the centuries who had far more understanding and translational skills than they will ever possess.

The NASB, ESV and NIV have two interesting, parallel verses in the New Testament. Both Matthew 12:45 and Luke 11:26 speak of a “spirit that takes along with IT seven other spirits more wicked than ITSELF”.

Here is a case of a spiritual entity that can see, hear, speak, and has a personality, yet the gender is disregarded in the NASB, ESV and NIV, and is referred to as “itself”. This spirit was not an inanimate object, but rather a spiritual being with a distinct personality.

In Luke 8:29, the same thing occurs in the KJB, NKJV, NIV, ESV and NASB. “For he had commanded the unclean SPIRIT to come out of the man. For oftentimes IT had caught him.” Here again is a spirit that talks, reasons, hears, and knows that Jesus is the Son of God and that torment awaits him. This is clearly a personality and yet all the above mentioned versions refer to him as an “it”. The gender is disregarded, and this is perfectly acceptable English.

Another instance of the Lord Jesus Christ using the little word “IT” to refer to himself is found in the NASB, NIV, ESV and NKJV in Luke 24:39 where He says: “Behold my hands and my feet, that IT is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

Again in Revelation 12:4, a multitude of Bible versions, including the NKJV, NIV, and the brand new English Standard Version of 2001, all refer to the child Jesus as IT. “And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as IT was born.”

All of the modern versions use “itself” when referring to both animals and groups of people. The NKJV has the donkey itself in Hosea 8:9, the goat itself in Lev. 16:22; Israel itself in Judges 7:2. Numbers 23:9 speaks of “a people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the nations”, and Zechariah 12:12, “the family of the house of David by itself.”

All Bible versions at times speak of Jesus Christ as being a thing or something neuter. In Matthew 1:20, the angel of the Lord says to Joseph: “fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for THAT WHICH is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” So read the ESV, RV, ASV, NKJV, RSV. The NIV and Holman have "WHAT is conceived", which is still neuter. However the NASB, NRSV say "THE CHILD WHO has been conceived", which is not in any Greek text, and then the NASB footnotes that it literally is "that which".

Notice the angel does not say “he”, but “that which”: it is neuter both in Greek and in English. In Luke 1:35, the angel says to Mary, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also THAT HOLY THING which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” That holy thing is neuter, yet we all know that Jesus Christ is a person, in fact, God manifest in the flesh. THAT HOLY THING is the reading found in all

Greek texts as well as Wycliffe, Tyndale, Bishops' bible, the Geneva Bible, the RV 1885 and ASV of 1901. Here the NASB and ESV now say "THE CHILD to be born", which is not in any Greek text, but once again the NASB footnote informs us that it literally is "that holy thing". Many modern versions are getting worse, not better.

The book of 1 John opens with a reference to Jesus Christ, yet it refers to Him as a thing. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life." Yet Christ is not a thing, but a person. In I John 5:4 we are told: "WHATSOEVER is born of God overcometh the world." This is a neuter. Are we to assume that everyone who is born of God is a thing? WHATSOEVER is the reading of the Revised Version 1885 and the ASV 1901, while the NKJV, NASB, RSV, NRSV have WHATEVER IS BORN of God. This is OK since it is still a neuter, but the NIV, ESV now say 'EVERYONE born of God' which, once again, is not found in any Greek text.

Mr. Kutilek's objections to these four verses in the King James Bible are totally unfounded. I have found that without exception, every person who takes it upon himself to criticize something found within the pages of the King James Bible is himself a Bible Agnostic. Not one of them can or ever will tell you where you can find the complete, inspired and inerrant words of God in Book form in any language on the face of this earth. Why? Because they simply do not believe that such a thing exists nor ever did exist.

They profess to believe selected portions of their multiple choice bible versions, but doubt, question, criticize and would change numerous others found in ALL versions out there. They are Bible Agnostics. God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. He has revealed Himself to us in His inspired words, and I along with thousands of other Christians believe He has faithfully kept them for us today in the English language of the King James Bible. All of grace, believing The Book, Will Kinney

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2 Corinthians 2:17 Corrupt or Peddle the word of God?

"For we are not as many, which CORRUPT the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." King James Bible

NKJV, NIV, NASB "For we are not, as so many, PEDDLING the word of God..."

There is an obvious difference between to corrupt the word of God and to peddle it. To corrupt

God's words is to pervert or change the meaning, while to peddle is does not involve changing or corrupting it, but it to hawk or sell it for profit.

Like most words, the word used here can have different meanings depending on the context. The Greek word used here is kapeleuo. It can have the meaning of to sell or peddle, but it also can have the meaning of to corrupt or to adulterate.

The Baer, Arndt and Gingrich Greek lexicon says on page 404: "the word comes to mean almost adulterate."

Liddell & Scott's Abridged Lexicon 7th edition 1887 lists on page 348 the meanings of "to adulterate, to give out as genuine, to palm off".

Thayer's lexicon says on page 325 "it is also used as synonymous with to corrupt, to adulterate."

And Kittle's massive work tells us in Volume III on page 604 that the adjective kapelos means "deceitful, false" and that the verb can mean "to misrepresent a thing".

Let's compare several versions to see how they have translated it.

CORRUPT the word of God - King James Bible, the Revised Version 1881, the American Standard Version 1901, Lamsa's 1936 translation of the Syriac Peshitta, Webster's 1833 translation, KJV 21st Century Version 1994, and the Third Millenium Bible 1998.

ADULTERATE the word of God --Mace 1729, Wesley 1755, Young's, Douay 1950, Living Oracles. The 1989 Revised English Bible has: "not adulterating the word of God for profit."

DO ADULTERY BY the word of God - Wycliffe 1395

WHICH CHOP AND CHANGE the word of God - Tyndale 1525, Coverdale 1535, Bishop's Bible 1568

FALSIFY the word of God - Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, German

French Martin 1744, French Louis Segond 1910 and French Ostervald 1996. All three of these French translation bibles have to "not falsifying the word of God". "Car nous NE FALSIFIONS pas la parole de Dieu, comme font plusieurs; mais nous parlons de Christ avec sincérité, comme de la part de Dieu, et devant Dieu."

Luther's German bible 1545 also reads "not falsifying the word of God" - "Denn wir sind nicht wie etliche viele, die das Wort Gottes VERFALSCHEN."

Italian Diodati 1649, and the New Diodati 1991 both have "not falsifying the word of God" - "Poichè noi NON FALSIFICIAMO la parola di Dio" and the Italian Riveduta 1927 has "not adulterating the word of God" - "Poiché noi non siamo come quei molti che ADULTERANO la parola di Dio"

The Portuguese Almeida has "we are not falsifiers of the word of God" - "Porque nós não somos FALSIFICADORES da palavra de Deus"

Spanish Reina Valera 1960, 1995 - "that go about falsifying the word of God" - "Pues no somos como muchos, que medran FALSIFICANDO la palabra de Dios"

However, many modern versions, including the NKJV have changed the meaning of the verse by translating it as "PEDDLE the word of God". These include the RSV, NRSV, ESV, NKJV, NIV and the NASB. "For we are not, as so many, PEDDLING the word of God" - NKJV 1982. The Holman Standard has: "For we are not like the many who MAKE A TRADE in God's message FOR PROFIT".

NET version - "For we are not like so many others, HUCKSTERS WHO PEDDLE the word of God FOR PROFIT."

As you can see, the first popular modernized English version to change the meaning from "to corrupt" the word of God to the idea of peddling it, was the liberal Revised Standard Version.

Two modern paraphrases try to combine both ideas from this single Greek word.

The Amplified version - "peddling God's word, shortchanging and adulterating the divine message"

The Message - "but at least we don't take God's Word, water it down, and then take it to the streets to sell it cheap." (Oh, No? That is exactly what they do with the Message)

John Gill comments on this verse: "which corrupt the word of God; by "the word of God", may be meant the Scriptures in general, which are from God, contain his will, and which he uses for

the good of men, and his own glory, and MAY BE CORRUPTED BY FALSE GLOSSES AND HUMAN MIXTURES, AND BY ADDING TO THEM, OR TAKING FROM THEM; or the Gospel in particular, which is the word of truth, of faith, righteousness, reconciliation, and salvation, and which WAS CORRUPTED BY THESE FALSE TEACHERS by making merchandise of it; they huckstered the word of God, made gain of it, sought merely their own worldly interest and advantage in it, and SO MIXED IT WITH THEIR OWN VAIN PHILOSOPHY, to please the carnal ears and hearts of men;... they did, as peddling merchants do, mix good and bad commodities together, and then vend them for sound ware... so did these men mix, and hereby CORRUPT the Gospel, the word of God; now the apostle says, they did not do so; they delivered out the word pure and unmixed, WITHOUT ANY CORRUPTION OR ADULTERATION."

John Calvin translated the word as "adulterate the word of God" and then commented: "It is, indeed, certain from the corresponding clause, that Paul intended to express here — CORRUPTION of doctrine — not as though they had revolted from the truth, but because they presented it under disguise, and NOT IN ITS GENUINE PURITY. For THE DOCTRINE OF GOD IS CORRUPTED in a direct way, when it is MIXED UP WITH FALSEHOOD AND LIES, so as to be no longer the pure and genuine doctrine of God, but is falsely commended under that title." (Caps are mine throughout).

John Wesley comments: " For we are not as many, who ADULTERATE the word of God - Like those vintners (so the Greek word implies) who mix their wines with baser liquors."

Matthew Poole commentary - "we translate it, corrupt the word; the Greek word signifies, to sell wine or victuals for money; and because such kind of people make no conscience to deceive, cheat, and deal fraudulently with their customers, it is sometimes used to signify CORRUPTING OR DECEIVING."

Barne's Notes on the New Testament - "Which corrupt the word of God. Margin, "deal deceitfully with." The word signifies, properly, a huckster, or a retailer of wine who buys up articles for the purpose of selling them again. The proper idea is that of a small dealer, and especially in wine. Such persons were notorious, as they are now, for diluting their wines with water and for compounding wines of other substances than the juice of the grape, for purposes of gain. Wine, of all substances in trade, perhaps, affords the greatest facilities for such dishonest tricks; and accordingly the dealers in that article have generally been most distinguished for fraudulent practices and corrupt and diluted mixtures, hence THE WORD COMES TO DENOTE TO ADULTERATE, TO CORRUPT. IT IS HERE APPLIED TO THOSE WHO ADULTERATED OR CORRUPTED THE PURE WORD OF GOD in any way, and for any

purpose."

It is very clear to me and many others that the King James Bible is correct with its reading of "not as many which corrupt the word of God". The KJB is the pure, inerrant, uncorrupted words of God. The NKJV rendering of "peddling the word of God" joins with the modern versions like the RSV, NASB, NIV, ESV, and removes the idea that God's words are being corrupted by many, and instead has us focus on merely peddling the word of God, which is exactly what all these modern versions are doing.

The modern versions not only corrupt the word of God but they also peddle it. They corrupt it by following the wrong Greek texts, by rejecting the Hebrew Masoretic texts in scores of places, and by changing the meaning in hundreds of verses. They peddle the word of God by making many unnecessary changes in the wording so they can get their copyrights to make money, and then they "revise" them again and again, and then ply their wares with Madison Avenue advertising techniques so you will go out and buy their

Late\$ Scholarly Finding\$. They hide the fact that God's words are being corrupted by many, and they are guilty of peddling their adulterated wares to unsuspecting and misinformed Christians, who now read and believe these corrupted bible versions less and less every day.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, no a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD." Amos 8:11

"Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8

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