

Contrast this with Pentecost, when the new Adam does not grab at divinity, does not "counting divinity as not a thing to be grasped." Fire does not protect at Pentecost. Fire falls, fire includes, fire gives access to ALL. (The art image includes women, and at the front!)

Consider also that in Genesis, fire from heaven destroyed the "Gentile" city of Sodom. Contrast this with Pentecost, when fire from heaven invites Jew and Gentile into a shared life.

*What does this mean for us as humans as "created to be like God" (4:24)?*

#### 4. A body of God at Communion

Last year: leaves in a circle. Took communion in the centre.

"Christian festivals [don't] only look back at God's work in the past, but forward to its future culmination."

Ascension/Pentecost is about the forming of the body of God. When we take communion, we are not only looking back, but forward to its future culmination. This is the work of the Spirit. Communion is not about Jesus only. It is a Trinitarian event.

At communion Jesus gets a body across space and time and cultures. At communion, because of the Spirit, we enter into Jesus body across space and time and cultures.

*What does this mean for us as humans as "make you into a new person ... created to be like God" (4:24)?*

**Conclusion:** Model airplane making OR Musical OR Video

**Your turn:** Who are humans in Ephesians 4:23-24.

A word or phrase to describe ...

How could you express that in the colours you paing a plane or in a video image?

## Pentecost Festival '07 Spirit in Ephesians # 2

Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy.

*Ephesians 4:23-24*



Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy. Ephesians 4:23-24

**MORNING:** Who is God in Ephesians 4:23-24?  
Answer: Son and Spirit together: yet distinct

As the Son rose, like fire, *What does this mean for us?*  
till the Spirit drops down, like fire, *What does this mean for us?*

**AFTERNOON:** Who are we humans in Ephesians 4:23-24?

**Your turn:** Who are humans in Ephesians 4:23-24.  
A word or phrase to describe ...

### 1. A human body goes up:

In Ascension, Jesus goes to be with God. Christians believe in Jesus as fully human and fully divine. Thus the fully human body of Jesus goes to be with God. A fully human body is enjoying Trinitarian life. A fully human body is finding space in God.

*What does this mean for us as humans as "a new person" (4:23)?*

### 2. "No, please, you go first": The body of God departs:

In Jesus, the body of God leaves. This leaves a gap. A space is formed. This tells us something about God, and about how humans should act.

The old Adam grabbed at divinity. He wanted to eat the apple. He wanted to live forever.

The new Adam, in the Ascension, is willing to stand aside, to step back and away from centre stage. The new Adam is the one who is "counting divinity as not a thing to be grasped." The humility of Jesus, the "no wait, you go first," of God, is not only seen in the Incarnation, but also in the Ascension.

*What does this mean for us as humans as "created to be like God" (4:24)?*

### 3. The body of God departs, the body of God is formed:

In Jesus, the body of God leaves. This leaves a gap. A space is formed. There is a pause in time. 10 days pass. We have to wait.

And then, in the space, comes the spirit of God. The church is formed, what Paul will call "the body of Christ."

Saint Athanasius describes Pentecost as "one feast after another," as Ascension after Pentecost; as one body (of Jesus) leading to many bodies being gathered as one body of Christ. Jesus had one body. In the church, in the body of Christ, Jesus gets a body across space and time and cultures. The leaving at the Ascension becomes not a space of departure but allows room for inclusion

This is how God acts. God acts in excess, as the Spirit piles up surplus upon surplus onto the body of God.

The body of God is formed around fire. Think about the weirdness of this. Fire coming down from heaven makes no sense.

But the use of fire links with fire elsewhere in the Bible. In Genesis, an angel with a "flaming sword" protected Eden, to keep the old Adam out.