

Westminster Confession: Communion of Saints (Chapter 26)

WFC ch. 26

All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

Saints by profession are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

This communion which the saints have with Christ, does not make them in any way partakers of the substance of his Godhead; or to be equal with Christ in any respect: either of which to affirm is impious and blasphemous. Nor does their communion one with another, as saints, take away, or infringe the title or propriety which each man hath in his goods and possessions.

Questions:

1. What experiences do believers share with Christ because of their union with him? (Consider a broad range and support your answer with Scripture) How do you relate to these experiences? Which in particular stand out to you?
2. How can the communion of the saints contribute to a Christian's growth? Cite Scripture in your answer.
3. What obligations do Christians have towards one another, as summarized by 1 Thess. 5:11-14? How do you see Christians carrying out these obligations in families? In churches? Is there a particular area in which you would like to grow?
4. How is the early church described in Acts 2:42-46? Is there a specific way you want to better follow this example?
5. How do you see the prophecy in Isaiah 2:3 fulfilled in the New Testament churches? How can this prophecy be an encouragement to you today?
6. Paragraph 2 says that 'mutual edification' should be our goal. How does Scripture support this? What opportunities do you have to edify someone else at church? These may be direct (teaching a Sunday school class) or indirect (serving in the nursery so parents can attend worship).