

Sunday School

LBC 1689: Chapter 27: Of the Communion of Saints

1. All saints that are united to Jesus Christ, their head, by His Spirit, and faith, although they are not made thereby one person with Him, have fellowship in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory;¹ and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces,² and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, in an orderly way, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.³

1a. Union's Redemptive Foundation: the Saint's Union with Jesus Christ

Waldron: Communion presupposes union and designates some sort of sharing based on that union.

Difference between “Derived” and “Direct” union: E.g. Siblings vs Spouse

A. Its Realization

I. By His Spirit: Salvation is the work of the Trinity.

There is no union outside of the Electing purposes of the Father, the Redeeming work of the Son, and Regenerating work of the Spirit.

Our Union to Other saints is the result of the union we have with Christ.

II. By Faith: The gift of God and the direct result of Regeneration.

B. It's Qualification: We do not become part or Christ's Person.

We do not become Divine: **C.f. Westminster 26.3.** This communion which the saints have with Christ, doth not make them in any wise partakers of the substance of the Godhead, or to be equal with Christ in any respect: either of which to affirm, is impious and blasphemous.

C. Its Scope: graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory **Waldron:** Everything Christ did and everything He now possesses as the mediator belongs to us... if they are one with Christ, then through Christ, they are one with each other.

1b. Union's General Definition

A. Its Bond: Love for Christ necessitates love for all who are in union with Christ.

E.g. Those whose would say they love Christ but don't love the church...

B. Its Benefits: We exist for Christ and for each other

C. Its Obligations: Gifts and Graces//obliged to Public and Private duties

To be done in an **Orderly Way**, for their **Mutual Good, Inner & Outer Man.**

¹ 1 John 1:3; John 1:16; Philippians 3:10; Romans 6:5-6

² Ephesians 4:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 3:21-23

³ 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14; Romans 1:12; 1 John 3:17-18; Galatians 6:10



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2. Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification;⁴ as also in relieving each other in outward things according to their several abilities, and necessities;⁵ which communion, according to the rule of the gospel, though especially to be exercised by them, in the relation wherein they stand, whether in families,⁶ or churches,⁷ yet, as God offers opportunity, is to be extended to all the household of faith, even all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus; nevertheless their communion one with another as saints, doth not take away or infringe the title or propriety which each man has in his goods and possessions.⁸

2a. Union's Specific Expressions

A. Their Identity: By Profession...Not by natural birth

Williamson: But some have argued that they can worship God by themselves, or at least without any commitment to membership in the visible church. Others seem to feel no obligation to loyal and faithful attendance at the services of worship in a particular congregation at its stated times of worship on the Lord's Day... he who is united to Christ is united to other believers. And being united to Christ necessarily entails solemn obligations to them.

Summary: bound to maintain holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God

I. Spiritual Services:

Various spiritual services that are to their mutual benefit.

This would primarily be referring to Lord's Day worship, but not limited to.

II. Physical Services:

This is to be done in accordance with their abilities and necessities.

B. Their Recipients:

What is meant by the "Rule of the Gospel"?

All the Household of faith, though existing in a wide variety of conditions.

As God offers opportunity: life comes in seasons.

All who call on the name of the Lord.

2b. Union's Necessary Limitation

This doesn't negate personal property or encourage communism.

⁴ Hebrews 10:24-25; 3:12-13

⁵ Acts 11:29-30

⁶ Ephesians 6:4

⁷ 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

⁸ Acts 5:4; Ephesians 4:28

