

“The Communion of Saints”

Holiness

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Romans 12:9-18

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Romans 12:9-18, ESV. “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal. Be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 26.

Sec. 1. 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 with 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.

Sec. 2. Saints by profession are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing other such 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 offers opportunity, is to be extended to all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

1 We were never meant to go it alone.

Genesis 2:18 “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make for him a helper, fit for him’.”

Matthew 26:36-38. “Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch with Me’.”

2 The Communion of Saints is a theme throughout Scripture.

Psalms 16:3 “As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”

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Psalm 133:1-3 “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity. It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 “Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him when he falls and he does not have another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Matthew 25:40 “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to me’.”

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 John 3:16-18 “By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.”

3 The quality of Christian relationships.

Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”

Proverbs 27:9 “Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.”