

The Holy Catholic Church

Belgic Confession, Article 27

1. THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH: The unity and oneness of the catholic church is a _____ that we are called to receive by faith.
 - a. The unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic church is a _____ reality in Christ.

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-5)
 - b. The catholicity of the church means that she is united throughout _____.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)
 - c. The catholicity of the church means that she is united across _____.

2. THE SECURITY OF THE CHURCH: God preserves his church against all _____. The story of Elijah during the time of Ahab challenges us to live by faith in this promise (1 Kings 19:1-18).
 - a. The church often appears _____ and weak.

...and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away. (1 Kings 19:10b)
 - b. The church is often tempted by _____ and despair.

But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” (1 Kings 19:4)
 - c. God promises that he is preserving the church and that the _____ means of grace are effective.

And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. (1 Kings 19:12)

3. THE CALLING OF THE CHURCH: We as the church are called simply to _____. That means we are called to...
 - a. ...rest in God’s promises with persevering _____.
 - b. ...be content with the _____ means of grace.
 - c. ...live in a way that makes _____ our spiritual unity in Christ.

...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)
 - d. ...live toward God’s promised future of perfect fellowship with him – and with _____ – in the new creation.