

What Do You Understand By the Communion of the Saints?

Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day XXI

Q55. What do you understand by the "communion of saints?"

Answer: First, that believers, all and every one, as members of Christ, are partakers with Him and all of His treasures and gifts; second, that every one must know himself bound to employ his gifts readily and cheerfully for the advantage and salvation of other members.

I. The **ROOT** of the fellowship

- A. Devotion to the apostles' teaching
 - 1. Earnest in study
 - 2. Understanding the implications
 - 3. Applying them to their lives

II. The **SHOOT** of the fellowship

- A. They sought fellowship with other saints
- B. The commonality of God's people (commonality of experience)
 - 1. Humbled by the Word of God
 - 2. Brokenness of our confession
 - 3. Rejoicing in the things of God
 - 4. Desiring to please God
 - 5. Desiring the wellbeing of the saints

III. The **FRUIT** of the fellowship

- A. Devoted to the fellowship
- B. Uniting with other believers
- C. Loving the saints
- D. Meeting their needs
- E. Supporting them in prayer
- F. Living in unity