

Lord's Day 21

54. Q. What do you believe concerning the *holy catholic Christian church*?

A. I believe that the Son of God,
out of the whole human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, defends, and preserves for himself,
by his Spirit and Word,
in the unity of the true faith,
a church chosen to everlasting life.

And I believe that I am
and forever shall remain
a living member of it.

1. Jn 10:11; Acts 20:28; Eph 4:11-13; Col 1:18.
2. Gen 26:4; Rev 5:9.
3. Is 59:21; 1 Cor 11:26.
4. Ps 129:1-5; Mt 16:18; Jn 10:28-30.
5. Rom 1:16; 10:14-17; Eph 5:26.
6. Acts 2:42-47; Eph 4:1-6.
7. Rom 8:29; Eph 1:3-14.
8. 1 Jn 3:14, 19-21.
9. Ps 23:6; Jn 10:27, 28; 1 Cor 1:4-9; 1 Pet 1:3-5.

55. Q. What do you understand by *the communion of saints*?

A. First,
that believers, all and everyone,
as members of Christ
have communion with him
and share in all his treasures and gifts.

Second,
that everyone is duty-bound
to use his gifts
readily and cheerfully
for the benefit and well-being
of the other members.

1. Rom 8:32; 1 Cor 6:17; 12:4-7, 12, 13; 1 Jn 1:3.
2. Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:20-27; 13:1-7; Phil 2:4-8.

56. Q. What do you believe concerning *the forgiveness of sins*?

A. I believe that God,
because of Christ's satisfaction,
will no more remember
my sins,
nor my sinful nature,
against which I have to struggle
all my life,
but will graciously grant me
the righteousness of Christ,
that I may never come into condemnation.

1. Ps 103:3, 4, 10, 12; Mic 7:18, 19; 2 Cor 5:18-21; 1 Jn 1:7; 2:2.
2. Rom 7:21-25.
3. Jn 3:17, 18; 5:24; Rom 8:1, 2.