**I believe in the communion of saints**

I John 1:1-4; Hebrews 12:22-24

The Holy catholic Church teaches us that that the church \_\_\_\_ the globe.

The Communion of Saints teaches us that the church transcends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The word “communion” translates the Greek word koinonia. That’s a very common word in the New Testament that means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or partnership. It means to share together in a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship.

The word “saint” simply means “\_\_\_\_ one.” It always applies to \_\_\_ believers. We are all saints of God. If you know Jesus, you are a true saint of God.

***To say that we believe in the communion of saints means that we believe there exists an intimate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between all true believers in Jesus. We can say it this way: Everyone who belongs to Jesus belongs to me, and I belong to them.***

We can draw a simple conclusion from this: Our fellowship ought to be as wide as the \_\_\_\_\_\_ body of Christ. God’s family is much bigger than any of us has ever imagined.

The gospel has the power to save people without regard to the distinctions that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us.

The gospel of Jesus has the power to build a \_\_\_\_\_\_ over the chasm of race, education, age, social status, skin color, family background, language, culture, and all the things that divide the human race. When we are firm on the gospel, we can have joyful fellowship with God’s people from many different backgrounds.

1. **We have communion with \_\_\_\_\_.**

We see this clearly in I John 1:1-4:

We have fellowship with God through his Son, Jesus Christ. And \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ do we have fellowship with one another.

That’s the whole point of the Lord’s Supper. We call it “communion” because it represents our fellowship with Christ through His broken body and His shed blood. As we receive the elements, we enter into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ communion with our Lord. And we \_\_\_\_\_\_ that communion with other believers in Christ.

1. **We have communion with the saints on \_\_\_\_\_.**

Back to I John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.”

The “one another” refers \_\_\_\_\_ to God and to other believers. Walking in the light allows us to have fellowship with God and with other believers.

1. **We have communion with the saints in \_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Hebrews 12:1 speaks of this when it says we are surrounded by a great cloud of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Hebrews 12:1 pictures the saints on earth in the arena while the saints in the heavenly grandstands cheer them on.

Death cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us from the saints in heaven.

Hebrews 12:22-24 Three times the writer uses the phrase “you have come.” The precise Greek word literally means “to come near.” Heaven is a real place, it’s where Jesus is right now, and it’s not far away from us.

What does this mean? Death cannot destroy our fellowship with the saints of God. We are \_\_\_ with them and they are one with us. We mean that the saints of God are alive in \_\_\_\_\_\_ while we are alive on \_\_\_\_\_. And they are not that far away from us. One day we will be reunited with them. They are gone from our sight but they are not gone from God. And they aren’t really gone from us either.

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