

## LORD'S DAY 21

Q54. What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church”?

**A. I believe that the Son of God<sup>1</sup> through his Spirit and Word,<sup>2</sup> out of the entire human race,<sup>3</sup> from the beginning of the world to its end,<sup>4</sup> gathers, protects, and preserves for himself,<sup>5</sup> a community chosen for eternal life<sup>6</sup> and united in true faith.<sup>7</sup> And of this community I am<sup>8</sup> and always will be<sup>9</sup> a living member.**

1. John 10:11 – “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

2. Isa. 59:21 – “And as for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord: my spirit that is upon you and my words that I have put in your mouth shall not depart out of your mouth or out of the mouths of your children or out of the mouths of your children’s children, says the Lord, from now on and forever.”

Rom. 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God’s saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Rom. 10:14, 17 – “But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?” “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”

Eph. 5:26 – “in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word”

3. Gen. 26:4 – “I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth shall gain blessing for themselves through your offspring.”

4. Ps. 71:18 – “So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.”

1 Cor. 11:26 – “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

5. Matt. 16:18 – “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”

John 10:28–30 – “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

1 Cor. 1:8 – “He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

6. Rom. 8:29–30 – “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Eph. 1:10–13 – “as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;”

7. Acts 2:46 – “Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,”

Eph. 4:3–5 – “making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,”

8. 1 John 3:21 – “Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God,”

2 Cor. 13:5 – “Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test!”

9. 1 John 2:19 – “They went out from us, but they did not belong to us, for if they had belonged to us they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us.”

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

**A. First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.<sup>1</sup> Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.<sup>2</sup>**

1. 1 John 1:3 – “what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

1 Cor. 1:9 – “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Rom. 8:32 – “He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?”

2. 1 Cor. 6:17 – “But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.”

1 Cor. 12:12–21

1 Cor. 13:5 “or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs;”

Phil. 2:4–6 – “Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,”

Q56. What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”?

**A. I believe that God, because of Christ’s satisfaction,<sup>1</sup> will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life.<sup>2</sup>**

**Rather, by grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.<sup>3</sup>**

1. 1 John 2:2 – “and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

2 Cor. 5:19, 21 – “that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” “For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2. Jer. 31:34 – “No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

Ps. 103:3, 10–12 – “who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,” “He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.”

Rom. 7:24–25 – “Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Rom. 8:1–3 – “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,”

3. John 3:18 – “Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”