

Communion with God (2)

In 1657, the theologian and pastor John Owen published *Of Communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Each Person Distinctly; in Love, Grace and Consolation or The Saints Fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost unfolded*.

John Owen defined **communion** as

“...the mutual communication of such good things as wherein the persons holding that communion are delighted, bottomed upon some **union** between them.”

Saying that

- “Our **communion**, then, with God consists in his communication of himself unto us with our return unto him of that which he requires and accepts, flowing from that **union** which in Jesus Christ we have with him”

Questions

On the night that he was betrayed Jesus promised his disciples that he would not leave them on their own to be like orphans.

- Whom did Jesus promise to send to his disciples?
- To whom would the Spirit unite them?
- Once that bond had been made, would it ever change? See, for example, John 10:27-28 and Romans 8:9

The promise made to the disciples also applies to every believer. We are all united to God the Father and God the Son, through the Holy Spirit. We are also united to one another (see, for example, 1 Cor 12:12-13). Our **communion** with God may fluctuate from time to time, as we respond more or less to God's love, but our **union** with him remains the same.

- In what ways is this a comfort? In what ways is it a challenge?

Application

Our communion with God flows from our unchanging union with the Lord Jesus Christ. We should seek to make the most of this union, by responding with love to our Heavenly Father's love.

John 14:15-24

Jesus said to him,

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him,

"Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered and said to him,

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.