

Communion with God (5)

In 1657, 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*.

Questions

We have communion with God the Father. The Father himself loves us (John 16:27; Titus 3:3-6); this is the great discovery of the gospel. We also have communion with God the Son.

- How is the Son revealed to us in the gospel? See especially John 1:14; 2 Cor 13:14; and 2 Thess 3:17-18.

Owen explains that, for the apostle Paul, the expressions “grace be with you” and the “Lord Jesus Christ be with you” are almost equivalent. See Rom 16:24; 1 Cor 16:23; 2 Cor 13:14; Phil 4:23; Col 4:18; 1 Thess 5:28; 2 Thess 3:18; 1 Tim 6:21; 2 Tim 4:22.

Owen then distinguishes between three types of grace: (1) the grace and comeliness of Christ's person; (2) the grace of free favour and acceptance; and (3) the fruits of the Spirit. The first he refers to as *personal grace*; the second two he refers to as *purchased grace*.

- In what ways is the character of Jesus full of grace? See, for example, Ps 45:2 and Song 5:9-10, together with Isa 53:2.

Application

The Lord Jesus Christ is full of personal grace. As we come to know him, and give ourselves to him, we are refreshed by that grace.

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.