

Communion with God

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*.

His work begins with a bold assertion:

“The saints of God have communion with him.”

He then defines 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

Our communion with God can be illustrated by contrasting David's relationship with Jonathan, and David's relationship with Saul.

- What was the basis of David and Jonathan's relationship? What did David and Jonathan delight in? How did they communicate their delight in these things?
- What was the basis of David and Saul's relationship? Why was it impossible for David and Saul to enjoy communion with each other?

Application

Communion with God consists in mutual relations. God the Father loves us. Through our union with him, by faith in Christ Jesus, we receive that love, and respond to it. The more we delight in God's love for us, and rest in that love, the more we have communion with God.

1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house any more. 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armour, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

1 Samuel 20:1-17

- 1 Then David fled from Natioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan,
- "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" 2 So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!" 3 Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favour in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death..."
- 12 Then Jonathan said to David:
- "The LORD God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you, 13 may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. 14 And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; 15 but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."
- 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying,
- "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies."
- 17 Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.