

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Lesson 30 – July 23

Question 84: Who may participate in the Lord's Supper?

All those who love the Lord Jesus and belong to any Christian church may participate. We come to the Lord's table not because any individual goodness gives us a right to come, but because Christ welcomes us. He loved us, gave himself for us, and invites us to receive his body and blood to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. Baptized children may participate if they have their parent's permission, the session's approval, and have received instruction in the meaning of the Lord's Supper.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Cor 11:8-29 Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves.

Lk 12:39 "Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into.

Question 85: What do we affirm when we speak of "the communion of saints"?

As believers we have communion with God the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ we are "saints"; that is, we share in holy things, such as Holy Communion, and we are united with all the saints past, present and future. Indeed, we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" who inspire us to run with determination the race that is set before us.

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

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

2 Cor 12:13 The only thing I failed to do, which I do in the other churches, was to become a financial burden to you. Please forgive me for this wrong!

Eph 2:19-22, 4:4

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

Rom 1:11-12 For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. 12 When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.