

Communion of Saints

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I. Communion of Saints. (John 14:8, 1 Corinthians 11:29)

A. We are caught between the desire for God and the fear of Him.

1. History tells us there is a hunger for God.
2. Yet God is the pursuer of man (both Adam and Peter).
3. A man becomes the fixation of men - Jesus Christ.

B. Proper communion.

1. Ask God for a cleansing of denominationalism.
 - a. Denominational divisions are imaginary to the Lord.
2. The early church was all in one accord and in one place.
 - a. The Holy Spirit did not come to make the believers in one accord, but because they were in one accord.
 - b. Music does not come to tune a piano, but because it is in tune.
 - c. People must get right so that the Holy Spirit can come.
3. A solid New Testament theology must lay at the foundation of community.
 - a. Resurrection of the body and of Christ is the doctrine of the church fathers.
 - b. We must maintain these truths firmly.
 - c. The importance of screening people from the pulpit.
 - d. Let the Lord separate the goats and take care of them.
4. The Corinthians failing to discern the presence of the Lord in the communion.
 - a. They began to backslide as a result.
 - b. Christ needs to be the center of fellowship.
 - c. The church is an organized organism made up of born again people.
 - d. The magnetic Son of God does not come to condemn us but to discipline us.

1) God disciplines us because we belong to Him. He sends the others to condemnation.

2) Deal with sin now; do not wait for God's discipline or condemnation.

Application questions.

1. Describe what Christian communion looks like.

2. Why is proper theology so essential to maintaining proper community?

3. How does our position in Christ determine God's reaction to our sin? Why is this? Is there any unconfessed sin in your own life that needs to be dealt with? In light of the message, how do you need to deal with it?
