



# Session 11

Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation, Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience, the Communion of Saints

# Session 11 Overview

- Westminster Confession of faith
  - Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation
  - Chapter 20 Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience
  - Chapter 26 Of the Communion of Saints
- Catechisms
  - Q. 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?
  - Q. 81. Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?
  - Q. 82. What is the communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?
  - Q. 83. What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life?



# The Order of Decrees

SUPERNATURALIST	PARTICULAR	Supralapsarian	→	Forordained Everything	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	Definite Atonement	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
		Infralapsarian	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	Election of some	→	Definite Atonement	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
		Amyraldian	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	General Atonement	→	Election of some	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
	UNIVERSAL	Lutheran	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	General Atonement	→	Efficatious Grace	→	Election of some	→	Conditional/Perserverance
		Universalistic	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity or Deprivation	→	Election of All	→	Definite Atonement for All	→	Efficacious Grace for All	→	Salvation of All
		Weslyan	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	General Atonement	→	Resistable Grace	→	Election upon faith	→	Salvation upon Faith
	SACERDOTAL	Anglican	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	General Atonement	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	2 Sacrament Salvation
		Roman Catholic	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	Sacrament of Mass	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	7 Sacrament Salvation
		Orthodox	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	Sacrament of Mass	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	7 Sacrament Salvation
	NATURALIST	Semipelagian	→	Creation	→	Free Will	→	General Atonement	→	Persuasive Gospel	→	Grace no Works	→	Once saved always saved
		Pelagian	→	Creation	→	Free Will	→	Persuasive Gospel	→	Expiate past sin	→	All good works	→	Salvation upon Works



# Imperfection of Christian - Assurance

- **A true believer may conflict with many difficulties**, before he be partaker of it: yet, (WCF 18:3) (2Ti 2:1-16)
  - He may, without extraordinary revelation, through ordinary means, attain assurance. (Cor. 2:12, 2Ti 2:15)
  - And therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, by bearing preventing men to looseness. (Heb. 6:11-12)
- True believers may have **assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken**, by (WCF 18:4) (Mar 14:72)
  - **Falling into sin** (1 John 2:1-2; Rom. 6:1-2)
  - By some sudden temptation, by **God's withdrawing the light of his countenance** (Mic. 7:7-9; Isa. 54:7-14)
  - **Believers never utterly destitute of God**, and love of Christ and the brethren, (Joh 10:28-29; Rom 8:39)
  - By the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, **be revived; and kept from utter despair**. (Jer. 32:40; 2 Cor. 4:8-10)



## Q. 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?

A. Such as **truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience** before him, may, (WCF 18:1)

➤ By faith **grounded upon the truth of God's promises** (WCF 18:2) **Without extraordinary revelation by the Spirit enabling them to discern** in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made (WCF 18:3) **Bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God** (WCF 18:3) Be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and **shall persevere therein unto salvation.** (WCF 18:4)

- “And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.” (1Jo 2:25 NAS)
- “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,” (1Co 2:12 NAS)
- “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” (2Ti 2:15 NAS)
- “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” (Rom 8:16 NAS)
- “The righteous will never be shaken,” (Pro 10:30 NAS)





Q. 81. Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?

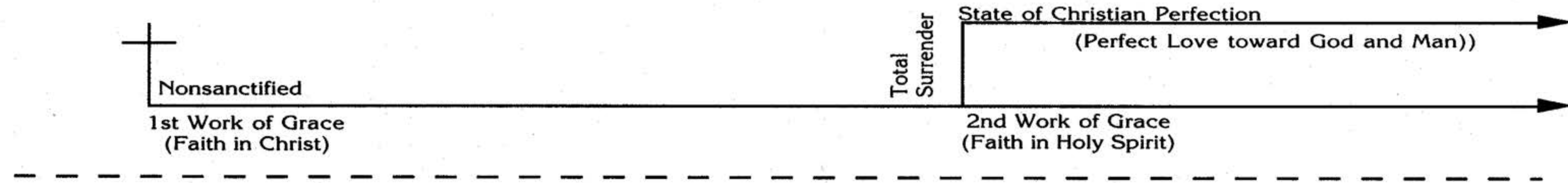
A. **True believers may** (WCF 18:4)

- **Wait long before they obtain assurance**; and, after the enjoyment thereof,
  - “O Lord, the God of my salvation, I have cried out by day and in the night before Thee.” (Psa 88:1-2 NAS)
- **May have assurance weakened and intermitted**, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertions;
  - “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;” (Luk 22:31 NAS)
- **Yet are they never** left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from **sinking into utter despair**.
  - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1Pe 1:3-5 NAS)



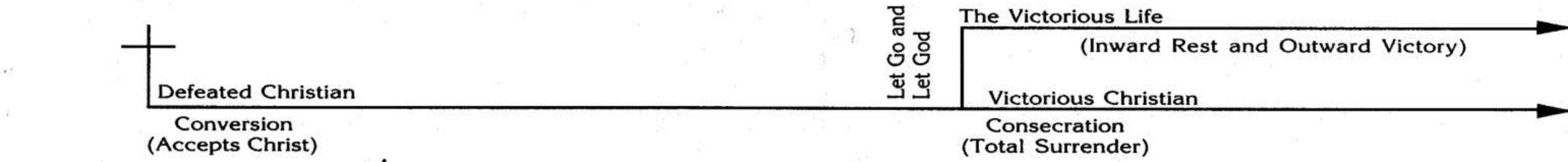
## Wesleyan Perfectionism

John Wesley, John Fletcher, Methodism,  
Nazarene, Salvation Army, Holiness



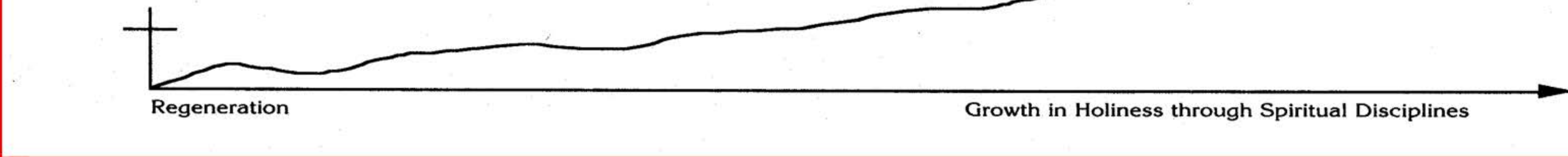
## Keswick Teaching

Hannah W. Smith, Andrew Murray,  
Watchman Nee, Ian Thomas



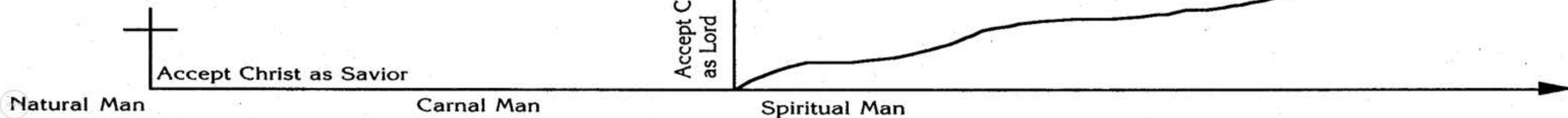
## Reformed Perspective

John Murray, John Owen,  
J. I. Packer, Anthony Hoekema



## Chaferian Perspective

Lewis Sperry Chafer, Charles Ryrie,  
John Walvoord



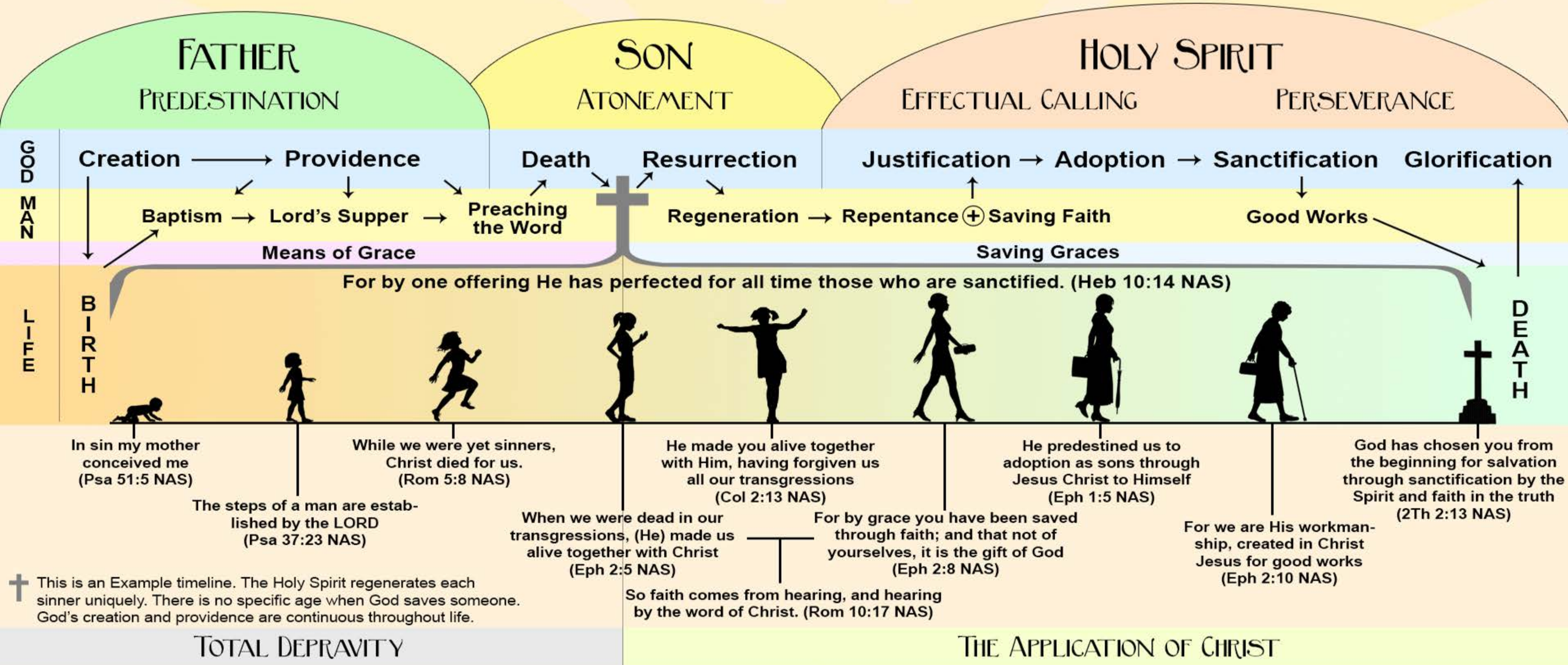


# The Trinity in Salvation

Whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Rom 8:30 NAS)

I will put My laws upon their heart, And upon their mind I will write them," He then says, "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. (Heb 10:16-17 NAS)

Having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. (Rom 6:22 NAS)



By grace you have been saved (Eph 2:5)

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# Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience (WCF 20)

The liberty which **Christ hath purchased** for believers under the gospel consists in (WCF 20:1)

- **Freedom from the guilt of sin**, the condemning **wrath of God**, **the curse of the moral law**; (Titus 2:14; 1 Thess 1:10; Gal. 3:13)
- **Being delivered from this present evil world**, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin; (Gal. 1:4; Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18; Rom. 6:14)
- From the evil of afflictions, **the sting of death**, the victory of the grave, **and everlasting damnation**; as also, (Rom. 8:28; Ps. 119:71; 2 Cor. 4:15–18; 1 Cor. 15:54–57)
- Their **free access to God**, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but **a childlike love and willing mind**. (Rom. 8:14–15; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 4:18)
- All which were common also to believers under the law. But, **under the new testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged**, in **their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law**, to which the Jewish church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of. (Gal. 3:8–9, 14; Cor. 10:3–4; Gal. 4:1–7; Heb. 4:14–16)



# God alone is Lord of the conscience (WCF 20:2-3)

- **God alone is Lord of the conscience**, and hath left it **free from the doctrines and commandments of men**, which are, (WCF 20:2) (James 4:12; Rom. 14:4, 10; 1 Cor. 10:29)
  - In **anything, contrary to his Word**; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. (Acts 5:29; Matt. 15:1–6; Matt. 15:9)
  - So that, **to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands**, out of conscience, **is to betray true liberty of conscience**: (Col. 2:20–23; Gal. 1:10; Gal. 5:1)
  - The **requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also**. (John 4:22; 1 Pet. 3:15)
- **They who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, do practice any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty**, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. (WCF 20:3) (Gal. 5:13; 1 Pet. 2:16; Rom. 6:15; Luke 1:74–75)



# The powers which God hath ordained

And because **the powers which God hath ordained**, and the liberty which Christ hath purchased, **are not intended by God to destroy, but mutually to uphold and preserve one another**, they who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, shall (WCF 20:4) (1 Pet. 2:13–14, 16; Rom. 13:1–8; Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12–13)

- **Oppose any lawful power**, or the lawful exercise of it, whether it be civil or ecclesiastical, **who resist the ordinance of God**. (Rev. 2:2, 14–15, 20)
- **Oppose any publishing of such opinions**, or **maintaining of such practices, as are contrary** to the light of nature, or **to the known principles of Christianity** (Rom. 1:32; Rom. 16:17)
- **Oppose such erroneous opinions or practices**, that, **are destructive to the external peace and order which Christ hath established in the church**, (2 John 10–11)
- **They may lawfully be called to account**, and proceeded against, **by the censures of the church**. (1 Cor. 5:1, 5, 11–13; Titus 1:10–11, 13–14; Matt. 18:15–17)



# Chapter 26 Of the Communion of Saints

- **All saints**, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, **have fellowship with** him in (1 John 1:3)
  - **His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory:** and, (Phil. 3:10; Rom. 6:5–6; Phil. 3:10)
  - **Being united to one another in love, they have communion** in each other's (WCF 26:1) (This is not the Lord's Supper) (Eph. 4:15–16)
    - **Gifts and graces**, and (John 1:16)
    - **Are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private**, (1 Thess. 5:11, 14; John 3:16–18)
    - **As do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.** (1 Thess. 5:11, 14; Gal. 6:10)

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.” (1Jo 3:16-18 NAS)



# Communion in helping one another

- **Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God**, and in (WCF 26:2)
  - Performing such other spiritual services as tend **to their mutual edification**; (Heb. 10:24–25; Acts 2:42, 46)
  - As also **in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities**. (This is not tithing) (1 John 3:17; 2 Cor. 8–9; Acts 11:29–30)
  - Which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is **to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus**.

“If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?” (Jam 2:15-16 NAS)

“Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2Co 9:7 NAS)



# Communion does not take advantage

- This **communion** which the saints have with Christ, **doth not** (WCF 26:3)
  - make them in any wise partakers of the substance of his Godhead; or **to be equal with Christ** in any respect: either of which to affirm is impious and blasphemous. (Col. 1:18–19; 1 Cor. 8:6; Ps. 45:6–7)
  - Nor doth their communion one with another, as saints, **take away, or infringe the title or propriety which each man hath in his goods and possessions.** (Ex. 20:15;)

"Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have *something* to share with him who has need." (Eph 4:28 NAS)

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Act 20:35 NAS)

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." (Luk 6:38 NAS)



# Communion in glory in the invisible church after death

Q. 82. **What is the communion in glory** which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

- is in this life, **immediately after death**,
  - “But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2Co 3:18 NAS)
  - “And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” (Luk 23:43 NAS)
- and at last perfected **at the resurrection and day of judgment**.
  - “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1Th 4:16-17 NAS)



# Communion in glory in the invisible church in this life

Q. 83. What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life?

A. **The members** of the invisible church have communicated to them **in this life**

**The first fruits of glory with Christ** are interested in that glory which he is fully possessed of; (Eph. 2:5–6; Rom. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 1:22; Rom. 14:17)

- **Enjoy the sense of God's love,**
- **Peace of conscience,**
- **Joy in the Holy Ghost, and**
- **Hope of glory;**

As, **on the contrary**, sense of (Heb. 10:27; Rom. 2:9; Mark 9:44)

- **God's revenging wrath,**
- **Horror of conscience, and**
- **A fearful expectation of judgment,**
- **Are to the wicked** the beginning of their torments which they shall endure after death.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Gal 5:22-23 NAS)

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (1Th 5:9 NAS see also 1Pe 5:10)

“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,” (Rom 2:5 NAS)



# Session 12 Overview

## ► Westminster Confession of faith

- Chapter 32 Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead
- Chapter 33 Of the Last Judgment

## ► Catechisms

- Q. 84. Shall all men die?
- Q. 85. Death being the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ?
- Q. 86. What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?
- Q. 87. What are we to believe concerning the resurrection?
- Q. 88. What shall immediately follow after the resurrection?
- Q. 89. What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?
- Q. 90. What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?