

The background of the top half of the slide features a dark teal color with faint, semi-transparent silhouettes of several people, likely in a church or community setting, engaged in conversation or prayer. The silhouettes are positioned behind the main text, creating a sense of depth and community.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The Keys to Biblical Community

Week 4: Communion & Confession

(1 John 1:1-10; James 5:16; Philip. 1:5, 27; 1 Cor. 10:16-17)

Outline

The communion of saints is embodied and expressed through the fellowship we share in four dimensions:

1. Truth
2. Light
3. Mission
4. The Lord's Supper

1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

A faded, blue-tinted background image showing three people in a warm embrace. The person on the left is a woman with long dark hair, the person in the middle is a man with short hair, and the person on the right is another man. They are all smiling and appear to be in a joyful, intimate moment.

1. Fellowship in Truth

1 John 1:1-4

MICHAEL HORTON

THE CHRISTIAN
FAITH

A Systematic Theology
for Pilgrims On the Way

The catholicity and unity of the church is found only in fellowship with the triune God. These attributes of the church do not arise from the individuals or a religious society, but from the Father, in the Son, by the Spirit.

—Michael Horton

1. Fellowship in Truth

Application

- Check your beliefs. Is your sense of solidarity with others rooted in the essentials of the gospel rather than secondary concerns?

1. Fellowship in Truth

Application

- Check your beliefs. Is your sense of solidarity with others rooted in the essentials of the gospel rather than secondary concerns?
- Read one of the historic creeds with your family this week. Discuss the truths that unite us as believers.

The background of the slide features a dark teal color with a faint, semi-transparent image of three people in silhouette. They appear to be in a warm embrace, with their arms around each other, suggesting a sense of fellowship and support. The overall mood is intimate and comforting.

2. Fellowship in the Light

1 John 1:5-10; James 5:16

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is *light*, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we *walk in the light*, as he is in the *light*, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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1 John 1:8-10

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to *one another* and pray for *one another*, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working

RICHARD J. FOSTER



CELEBRATION
OF
DISCIPLINE

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Confession is a difficult discipline for us because we all too often view the believing community as a fellowship of saints before we see it as a fellowship of sinners. We feel that everyone else has advanced so far into holiness that we are isolated and alone in our sin. We cannot bear to reveal our failures and shortcomings to others . . . Therefore, we hide ourselves from one another and live in veiled lies and hypocrisy.

RICHARD J. FOSTER



CELEBRATION
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But if we know that the people of God are first a fellowship of sinners, we are freed to hear the unconditional call of God's love and to confess our needs openly before our brothers and sisters. We know that we are not alone in our sin . . . We are sinners together. In acts of mutual confession we release the power that heals. Our humanity is no longer denied, but transformed.

2. Fellowship in the Light

Application:

When should we confess our sins to others?

- When we sin in a way that hurts the relationship

2. Fellowship in the Light

Application:

When should we confess our sins to others?

- When we sin in a way that hurts the relationship
- When we are stuck in a sin and need help

2. Fellowship in the Light

Application:

Three contexts for mutual confession:

- Family life
- Friendship
- Small groups

The background of the slide features a dark teal color with a faint, semi-transparent image of three people in a group hug. The person on the left is a woman with long dark hair, the person in the middle is a man with short hair, and the person on the right is a man wearing a cap. They are all smiling and embracing each other.

3. Fellowship in Mission

Philippians 1:5, 27

Philippians 1:3-5, 27

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...



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3. Fellowship in Mission

Application

How to partner together in missional living:

- Pray together for unbelievers
- Serve together
- Turn your shared interests into outposts for sharing Christ with others

A faded, blue-tinted background image showing three people in conversation. One person is on the left, another in the center, and a third on the right, all appearing to be engaged in a discussion or meeting.

4. Fellowship in the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.



No power upon earth can henceforth take from me the piece of bread, which I've just now eaten, it has gone where it will be made up into blood, and nerve, and muscle, and bone. It is within me, and of me. That drop of wine has coursed through my veins, and is part and parcel of my being. So he that takes Jesus by faith to be his Savior has chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from him.



He has received the Christ into his inward parts, and all the men on earth, and all the devils in hell, cannot extract Christ from him... By our sincere reception of Jesus into our hearts an indissoluble union is established between us and the Lord, and this manifested itself in mutual communion.

—Charles Spurgeon

4. Fellowship in the Lord's Supper

Application

- Approach the supper as a communal experience.

4. Fellowship in the Lord's Supper

Application

- Approach the supper as a communal experience.
- Be reconciled to fellow believers. Restore broken relationships.

4. Fellowship in the Lord's Supper

Application

- Approach the supper as a communal experience.
- Be reconciled to fellow believers. Restore broken relationships.
- Embody the love of Christ to others this week.

Summary

The communion of saints is embodied and expressed through the fellowship we share in four dimensions:

1. Truth
2. Light
3. Mission
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