

## **THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS – Part II**

Dearly beloved,

This is the second part and concluding part of this article, "The Communion of the Saints". The first part can be found in the pastor's voice on 8 March. Blessed reading!

### Each member is Important

Within the body of Christ, each member is important. This truth comes home to us when we think of the analogy of the human body where there is the eye, leg, the ear, and the nose. Though some members are less honourable and more feeble ( I Cor. 12.22, 23), nonetheless, each member is equally important. And because of this no member ought to make to feel that they have no part in the body of Christ (I Cor. 12.16-21). The importance of each member takes its significant only in relation to one another within the body. If the eye is detached from the body, this eye is not able to see for he is cut off from the life-giving blood of the body and thus serves no purpose. And the body is not able to see since it does not have an eye in his head. In the same way, the leg when it is detached from the body serves no purpose because it cannot help the body to walk. But, if the eye and leg abides in the body, then the body is able to see and the body is able to move towards a destination because of the legs.

### Each member has a calling to fulfill

Within the body of Christ, each of us has a calling to fulfil. And in order to fulfil our calling, God has equipped us with gifts, according to the grace of God, Rom. 12.6-9. What is the purpose of the employing those gifts? It is not for self-praise and self-honour but for edification or the building up of the body of Christ. Whether it is gifts of prophecy, ministry, ruling, exhortation or teaching, it is to be used to build up the body of Christ. We are built up spiritually when our minds are able to behold the beauty and grandeur of God and with our hearts, we come to love and adore God.

### We are to employ these gifts with love

And when we speak the Word of God, we do it in love for another. We speak to exhort, comfort and encourage one another in their calling as covenant families in the church. Parents are to be faithful in their calling as fathers and mothers in the home. They are to be faithful in the raising of godly children in the fear of God. And each one of us in the body of Christ are to encourage one another to march forward into heaven's shores in the way of turning way from our sins and living lives in holiness and righteousness. We are also to labour in the cause of God's kingdom in the preaching of the gospel.

### And towards the saints, we are to love them fervently

This we do without favouritism or giving preference one over the other and we treat older ones as fathers and mothers and younger ones as brothers and sisters, with all tenderness, brotherly love and in honour preferring one another better than ourselves. We are always ready to forgive those who have sinned against us. And as brethren, we identify with them in their joys and sorrows. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. And if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with him, I Cor. 12.26.

### Application

Ah! Beloved brethren, let us take into our souls the grand idea of the communion of the saints! How vast is the fellowship! With the saints of all ages in the past! With the saints of all ages in the future! And with the church eternal in glory! How comforting! We are not alone in our work, in our trials and, in our hopes! Millions uncounted have been ministering to us, praying for us, rejoicing over us! Let us thank God for the communion of the saints!

