

First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cambridge, Massachusetts
The Lord's Day, October 23 Anno Domini 2005

1 John 4:7-19 & Ephesians 4:11-16
Communion of saints: Being united to one another in love

Westminster Confession of Faith 26:1 All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by His Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

- I. The communion of love.
“...united to one another in love...”
 - A. God's astounding love for us is revealed in our union with Christ.
John 17:23.
 - B. We are united in love to Christ.
Romans 5:5.
 - C. And what is love?
Love is doing something for another's blessedness at your own cost.

- II. God's love is expressed through our union with Christ.
God is love...(v. 16)
 - A. Source of love, verses 10, 19.
 - B. Love brings to expression our fellowship with Christ.
1John 4:12-13, 15.
 - C. Lack of love means no fellowship with God. No union with Christ.
1John 4:8, 18.

- III. The perfected evidence of God's love is shown in our lives.
 - A. 1John 4:12, *if we love one another...*
 - B. 1John 4:17, *as he is so are we in this world*
 - C. Two important principles of our union with Christ:
 1. Blameless and holy,
 2. Love for one another,
 - D. Here is the conclusion, for today...
1John 4:7-11.