

The Holy Catholic Church, the
Communion of Saints
Ephesians 3:8-22

Dr. Valerie M. Grissom
August 15, 2021



NOTES

Apostles' Creed

We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Holy Catholic Church, the
Communion of Saints
Ephesians 3:8-22

Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- What do you think of when you hear the word "holy"? Read Ephesians 3:8-22. How have we been "set apart" (holy) as the people of God to be formed as members of Christ's body?
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer says that God has made Christian community a "reality," rather than something we build or create. How does seeing Christian community as a reality of God change how we approach church?
- See Ephesians 4:2-6. Who are we excluding in our picture of the Church? In what ways can you participate in a fuller, more catholic (universal) Church?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12. How does this picture of the body of Christ contrast with American ideals of individualism, freedom, nationalism, and exceptionalism? What are ways we can combat these ideologies and embrace the reality of God's Church in community?
- What do you think of when you hear the word "saint"? Do you see yourself as a "saint" (you are!)? Make a list of saints who have gone before you that have helped you or influenced you in your faith. Thank God for the "communion of saints."
- Read aloud a version of the *Apostles' Creed*. Why do you think the Holy Spirit precedes "We believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints?"
- Read Ephesians 3:14 again. Who or what is God calling you to be at "peace" and not in "hostility" with? How is God calling you today to lean in (participation) to the Church, rather than stay afar (avoidance, non-committal)? How can you participate more fully as a member of Christ's body, in God's family?
- Write a prayer to God, thanking God for the "holy, catholic church, the communion of saints."

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.