

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:9-13 Communion of Saints

The communion of saints is enjoyed in intercessory prayer, genuine affection, and mutual service to the glory of God as we are encouraged by the Truth.

1) The communion of saints is enjoyed in prayer (9-10a).

- a) Types of Prayer:
 - i) Thanksgiving (v. 8)—“I thank my God . . . for all of you”
 - ii) Petition (v. 9)—“I make mention of you”
- b) Character of Prayer:
 - i) Sincere—“For God is my witness”
 - ii) Persistent/Ardent—“that without ceasing . . . always”
 - iii) Evangelical—“whom I serve . . . in the gospel of His Son”
 - iv) Practical—“I may succeed in coming to you . . . I may impart to you some Spiritual gift . . . I have often intended to come”
 - v) Submissive—“by God’s will”
- c) **Application:** How can you develop a plan for prayer? What is your controlling purpose for prayer? How can you look for opportunities to be “God’s answer to prayer”? How can you submit to God’s design for your prayer requests?

2) The communion of saints is enjoyed in genuine affection (11a).

- a) Affection for All the Saints: “for all of you” (v. 8)
- b) Affection for Saints You’ve Not Seen: “at last succeed in coming to you” (v. 10); “I long to see you” (v. 11); “I intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented)” (v. 13)
- c) Genuine Affection: “I long” (v. 11)
- d) **Application:** How can you grow in your love for the Church? How are you cultivating fellowship with other believers?

3) The communion of saints is enjoyed in mutual service (9b, 11b-13).

- a) Rendering Service to Others: “that I may impart some Spiritual gift to strengthen you”
- b) Receiving Service from Others: “that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine”
- c) The Character of Christian Service:
 - i) God-centered—“God . . . whom I serve” (9b)
 - ii) Evangelical—“in the gospel of His Son” (9:b); “some Spiritual gift” (11b)
 - iii) Whole-hearted—“with my spirit” (9b)
 - iv) Edifying—“to strengthen you” (11b)
 - v) Fruitful—“that I may reap some harvest among you” (13)
- d) **Application:** What gifts and resources has God given you for serving others? How can you humble yourself to receive edifying ministry from others? What makes ministry “Christian”?

4) The communion of saints is enjoyed in a common faith (12).

- a) Common Faith: “mutually encouraged by each other’s faith”; “faith” a body of doctrine, not subjective believing
- b) **Application:** How can you grow in your knowledge of the faith/truth with fellow saints?

The communion of saints is enjoyed in intercessory prayer, genuine affection, mutual service to the glory of God as we are encouraged by the Truth.

Doxology: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. (Psalm 26:8)