

Talk Six
**HOLY SPIRIT, HOLY CHURCH
COMMUNION OF SAINTS**
The Rev'd Simon Manchester

Leaders: choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

Week 6 – Holy Spirit, Holy Catholic Church, Communion of Saints

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

I 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.

1. Is there anything that stood out for you from the message? Anything new to you?

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in one God who is three persons. We realise as we read the Bible, that the Father is God, that Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is God – but that there is only one God. This is not a human construct but revealed to us by God. We don't expect to fully understand this. The Holy Spirit is God. He was present at creation, he is at work in salvation, and is involved in revelation and many verses remind us of Father, Son and Holy Spirit at work together. (See for example, 2 Corinthians 13:14).

2. Why do we know that the Holy Spirit is a person, not a force? (See for example John 14:16-17, 15:26, 16:12-15.)
3. Simon reminded us of some of the very personal things the Holy Spirit does (around the 4 min and 30 sec mark). Can you recall what some of them were?
4. Simon quoted John Stott on the work of the Holy Spirit: he “glorifies Jesus, sanctifies believers, edifies the church, and evangelises the world.” Discuss the implications of these four great descriptions – revisiting the video at the 6-minute mark if helpful.
5. Do you recall what Simon said about how we know we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit?
6. The Holy Spirit builds the church up by using the Word of God and the gifts of the Spirit. What can happen (as Simon described it), when the Word of God is *not* taught clearly in a church? And what often happens when the Word of God is taught faithfully?

HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH AND COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Simon suggested these words can be confusing and suggested a paraphrase – that we are the chosen, global, fellowship of Christians.

7. What does it mean that the church is holy or chosen?
8. Explore the global nature of the church. (Refer Revelation 7:9ff). How do you react to this picture?
9. Communion – Simon explained that this is not a reference to the service of Holy Communion but what we share in common. We have fellowship together in relationship with Jesus. How did Simon suggest we can participate in church usefully? (See the video again at 18:40.)
10. 'Saints', said Simon are not dead people or super people, but simply Christ's people. What are the implications of this for how we see and treat one another?

What will you personally take from this study?