



“What if it’s True? | The Holy Catholic Church”

August 21

Discussion Questions

1. "I believe...in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints". Going into the sermon or this discussion, did you have any confusion or uncertainty about the meaning of these terms in the context of the creed? Define the terms with your group, and put this section of the creed in your own words.
2. Look at the passage from Ephesians. Why is it important that both Jews and Gentiles are part of the church? Does this spiritual and historical context change your understanding of what it means for you to belong to the church?
3. In the Ephesians passage, what is the primary metaphor that Paul uses to describe the church? Discuss the implications of this metaphor.
4. According to the sermon, how can we believe in a holy catholic church and the communion of saints when the actual church has done so many terrible things throughout history and Christians are so divided from one another? On what basis is the church holy, catholic, and united in communion?
5. The sermon suggested that believing in the church means living in the messy reality and stretching toward the ideal. What does this look like in your own life? Are there patterns of behaviour or commitments that you could make that would further live into the conviction that the church is a spiritual body to which you belong?

Ephesians 2:11-22

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.