

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 62. What is the visible church?

A The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion,¹ and of their children.²

1. 1 Cor. 1:2.; 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 15:9–12; Rev. 7:9; Ps. 2:8; Ps. 22:27–31; Ps. 45:17; Matt. 28:19–20; Isa. 59:21.
2. 1 Cor. 7:14; Acts 2:39; Rom. 11:16; Gen. 17:7.

Q 63. What are the special privileges of the visible church?

A The visible church hath the privilege of being under God's special care and government;¹ of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies;² and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation,³ and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved,⁴ and excluding none that will come unto him.⁵

1. Isa. 4:5–6; 1 Tim. 4:10; Eph. 4:11–13. 2. Ps. 115:1–2, 9; Isa. 31:4–5; Zech. 12:2–4, 8–9; Matt. 16:18.
3. Acts 2:39, 42; Matt. 28:19–20; 1 Cor. 12:12–13. 4. Ps. 147:19–20; Rom. 9:4; Eph. 4:11–12; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:21; Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:10–13, 17. 5. Matt. 11:28–29; John 6:37.

Q 64. What is the invisible church?

A The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.¹

1. Eph. 1:10; Eph. 1:22–23; John 10:16; John 11:52; Eph. 5:23, 27, 32.

Q 65. What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?

A The members of the invisible church by Christ enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory.¹

1. John 17:21; Eph. 2:5–6; John 17:24; 1 John 1:3; John 1:16; Eph. 3:16–19; Phil. 3:10; Rom. 6:5–6.

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