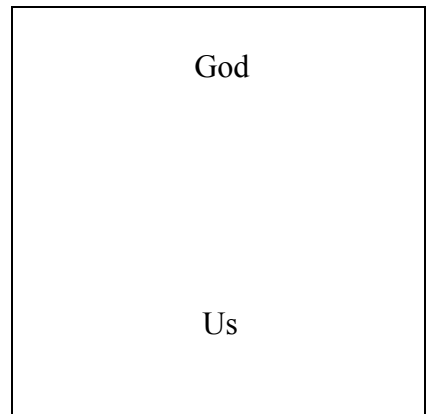
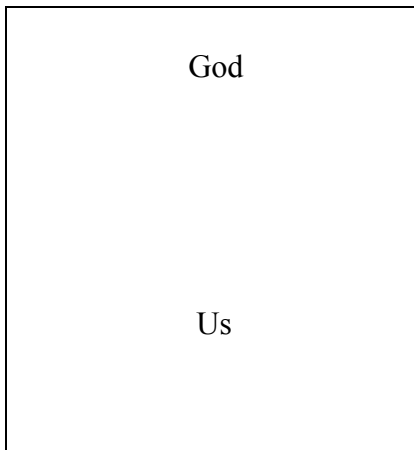
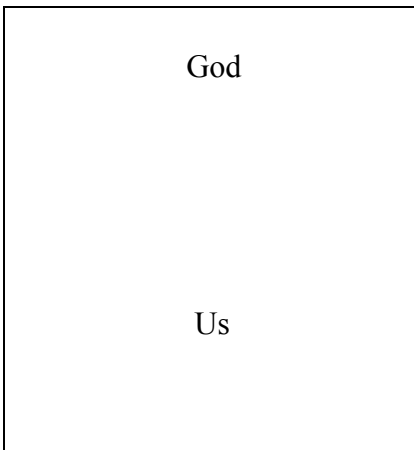


**Session 7 – The Third Article: The Holy Ghost (Sanctification)**

1. **The Third Article** – *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.* This article speaks about the Holy Spirit and His work of sanctification. Sanctify means to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Holy Spirit (or Ghost) is more than the power or energy of God – He is true God with the Father and the Son. He:
  - A. Has divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 3:16).
  - B. Has divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 139:7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:10, Hebrews 9:14).
  - C. Does divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:2, Titus 3:5).
  - D. Receives divine \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 1:11-14, 1 Peter 4:14).
3. What is the special work of the Holy Spirit?
  - A. He \_\_\_\_\_ faith (Romans 15:13, 2 Corinthians 4:6, 1 Peter 1:8, 1 Peter 2:9)
  - B. He keeps us all in the one true faith and \_\_\_\_\_ a believer to live for God’s glory (Philippians 1:6, 1 Peter 1:5, 1 Thessalonians 2:13).
4. Why does fallen humanity desperately need His work? By nature we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to Him (1 Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 8:7, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Corinthians 12:3), but the Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel (Romans 1:16, 2 Thessalonians 2:14, Revelation 22:17), enlightened us with His gifts (1 Peter 2:9, 2 Corinthians 4:6, 1 Peter 1:8, Romans 15:13), sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith (Psalm 51:10, Romans 8:9, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 5:18-20). By faith, He works a renewal of our *whole life* – in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is His work called? The work of the Holy Spirit is called conversion (being turned) or regeneration (new birth). He \_\_\_\_\_ what Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 51:13, John 3:5-6).
6. Why are some saved and not others? There are three views on this most important issue:



7. The first two systems attempt to answer this question logically, but the final box best explains the mystery involved in the Holy Spirit's call or \_\_\_\_\_ of believers (Ezekiel 2:1-18, John 15:16, Romans 8:28-39, Ephesians 1:3-14). This system is not logical, but it is Biblical. God the Holy Spirit earnestly wants to convert all people (Ezekiel 33:11, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9). When a person comes to faith in Christ, it is on account of the work of the Holy Spirit. It is \_\_\_\_\_ choice. When a person does not come to faith in Christ it is by their own fault. It is \_\_\_\_\_ choice (Acts 17:22-31, Romans 1:18-21, Romans 9:9-16).

8. Think about these questions:

- Who convicted you of your need for God?
- Who helped you understand the Bible?
- Who initiated your relationship with God?
- Who brought you to understand the cross of Christ?
- Who converted you to the Christian faith?
- Who made you into a brand new creation?
- Who will nourish you in the faith for the rest of your life?

The answer is the \_\_\_\_\_. We didn't do any of this through our intellect, experiences, behavior, desires, or spirituality. God does use people to bring the Gospel message to others, but even in this it is God who is at work as the Gospel is what saves and the person who is speaking it is simply the mouthpiece used by the Holy Spirit. All glory goes to God as He brought us to recognize and receive the accomplished work of Christ as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). The Holy Spirit does it all.

9. **Read Hebrews 11:6.** Is there any such thing as a "good work" in the sight of God outside the Holy Spirit's gift of faith?

10. How does the Spirit carry out His work? Though God's craftsmanship in creation reveals His power and wisdom, it does not reveal His grace and forgiveness. Furthermore, God does not promise to speak to us directly to reveal His will (immediate revelation); He promises to reveal Himself to humanity through His means of grace (mediate revelation). His means of grace are the written and spoken \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. **Read 2 Corinthians 11:14.** What is the danger of looking for God where He does not promise to be found?

11. All three use \_\_\_\_\_ means, but do \_\_\_\_\_ things. All three proclaim and deliver God's good news: God has rescued fallen humanity through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. The core of the message is forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus.

12. What does it mean when we confess “*the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints?*” The word “church” in the Bible means people who have been “\_\_\_\_\_” by God. In the Old Testament, God called out the nation of Israel to be His own special people. When Jesus began His ministry, He called twelve disciples as the first members of His New Testament church. Later, He sent His Holy Spirit to call and gather people from every nation through the Gospel into the one holy Christian Church.
13. There is a distinction between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Church. The visible church is the whole number of those who use the Word of God and profess the Christian faith, but among whom, beside the true Christians, there are also unbelievers. The invisible Church is the only one church – all believers in Christ. This Church is invisible or *hidden* because it is only known and seen by God. The Creed refers to this as the “holy Christian Church”. In the ancient text of the Creed it reads “holy catholic church”. The word “catholic” means “universal” referring the true Church of believers everywhere. Lutherans generally replace the word “catholic” with the word “Christian” to avoid confusion with the Roman Catholic Church.
14. The true Church is always a \_\_\_\_\_; never a \_\_\_\_\_. There is only one holy Christian Church even though there are many denominations. Denominations (including non-denominations) arise because people understand and explain the Bible differently. Although there may be a different degree of truth proclaimed within each group, no one denomination can claim to be THE one holy Christian Church. Rather, the Church is to be found wherever people gather around the message of God’s grace in Jesus and the Sacraments.
15. The Scriptures give us the proper framework for understanding life in the church. They teach that:
- A. We should seek always to be and remain \_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible church, Christ’s body, by sincere faith in Christ, our Savior (John 15:5, 2 Corinthians 13:5).
  - B. We should be \_\_\_\_\_ to that visible church, or denomination, which professes and teaches all of the Bible’s doctrine purely and administers the sacraments according to Christ’s institution (John 8:31-32, Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 1:10).
  - C. We should avoid \_\_\_\_\_, false churches, and all organizations that promote a religion that is contrary to God’s Word (Matthew 7:15-16, Romans 16:17-18, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Galatians 1:8, 2 Timothy 4:3, 1 John 4:1).
  - D. We should maintain and extend God’s church by \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus Christ, by personal service, and by prayer and financial support (John 20:21, Acts 1:8, Acts 8:1-4, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 Peter 3:15, Luke 10:2, Galatians 6:6).
16. For every Christian group, the goal should be to understand life and Church as God really intends us to in His Word. **Read Ephesians 4:4-6.** Considering these verses,

how should we seek to help other *believers* grow in their understanding of the Christian faith?

17. What does it mean when we confess “*the forgiveness of sins?*” Even though we were separated from God, God restored us by declaring us righteous for the sake of Christ. Since we are \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 130:3-4, Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 2:2), we seek to \_\_\_\_\_ relationships with others (Luke 24:47, Romans 12:18, 2 Corinthians 5:19). The first was completed once and for all by Christ. The second will continue to take place throughout the rest of our earthly lives.
18. We can be certain of the forgiveness of our sins because God keeps His promises in Christ (Romans 8:38-39, 2 Timothy 1:12). We are always and only justified \_\_\_\_\_ grace, for Christ’s sake, \_\_\_\_\_ faith. The Church must forever hold firmly to this teaching of justification because:
- A. It is the most important doctrine of Christianity (Acts 4:12, Acts 10:43). The reformers said that this is the doctrine on “which the church stands or falls.”
  - B. It distinguishes the Christian faith from false religions, all of which teach salvation by works (Micah 7:18-20, Galatians 5:4-5).
  - C. It gives enduring comfort to the penitent sinner (Matthew 9:2, John 10:27-29, Acts 16:30-34).
  - D. It gives all glory to God for His grace and mercy in Christ (Revelation 1:5-6).
19. What does it mean when we confess “*the resurrection of the body?*” On the last day:
- A. Jesus will gather all peoples before Him (1 Corinthians 15:12-28, Hebrews 9:27).
  - B. We will be given a resurrected body which will be similar to our present body, but adapted for the eternal world (1 Corinthians 15:35-58).
  - C. Jesus will separate humanity into two groups (Matthew 25:32-33).
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ will be welcomed home and commended for what they have done in service to others (Matthew 25:35-40). They will express surprise. When they served as they did, they did not do it for the sake of merit or notice (Matthew 25:37-39).
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ will be eternally separated from God. They are not rebuked (also surprised) for harm they did to anyone. They are rejected for failing to do good to anyone. They used life for themselves, not in the service of others (Matthew 25:41-26).
20. Since Christ has all authority to judge humanity, each person will appear before Him on the last day (John 5:24-27, 2 Timothy 4:1-2, Revelation 14:14-16). All people will be judged according to where they stand with Jesus’ offer of forgiveness and salvation. Unbelievers will receive what their \_\_\_\_\_ deserve (Isaiah 66:24, Matthew 10:28, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 1:7). Believers will receive the righteous reward that \_\_\_\_\_ deserves (Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29, 1 Corinthians 15:42-43, Philippians 3:21).

21. What do we mean when we confess “*the life everlasting?*” All believers in Christ:
- A. Have eternal life as a present possession (John 17:3, John 3:16, Romans 10:9, John 3:36).
  - B. Will immediately be with Christ in heaven at the point of death. The body will remain here, but the soul will depart to be with the Lord in heavenly rest (Ecclesiastes 12:7, Luke 23:43, John 17:24, Philippians 1:23-24, Revelation 14:13). Have you ever heard false ideas about this spoken at funerals?
  - C. Will begin the full enjoyment, in both body and soul, with Christ forever at the Final Judgment (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Matthew 25:34, Psalm 16:11, Romans 8:18, 1 John 3:2).
22. **Read Revelation 7:9-17.** How can this awesome image encourage you to persevere and remain faithful to Jesus?
23. How are you certain you have eternal life? Read these words together: **Even as I now believe in Christ my Savior, I also know that I have been chosen to eternal life out of pure grace in Christ without any merit of my own and that no one can pluck me out of His hand. Because all this is plainly taught in the Bible, I firmly believe it to be most certainly true.**