

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 86. What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?

A The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness,¹ and received into the highest heavens,² where they behold the face of God in light and glory,³ waiting for the full redemption of their bodies,⁴ which even in death continue united to Christ,⁵ and rest in their graves as in their beds,⁶ till at the last day they be again united to their souls.⁷ Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.⁸

1. Heb. 12:23; Acts 7:55, 59. 2. 2 Cor. 5:1, 6, 8; Phil. 1:23; Acts 3:21; Eph. 4:10; Luke 23:43. 3. 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12. 4. Rom. 8:23; Ps. 16:9. 5. 1 Thess. 4:14, 16. 6. Isa. 57:2. 7. Job 19:26–27. 8. Luke 16:23–24; Acts 1:25; Jude 6–7.

Q 87. What are we to believe concerning the resurrection?

A We are to believe, that at the last day there shall be a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust:¹ when they that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed; and the selfsame bodies of the dead which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls forever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ.² The bodies of the just, by the Spirit of Christ, and by virtue of his resurrection as their head, shall be raised in power, spiritual, incorruptible, and made like to his glorious body;³ and the bodies of the wicked shall be raised up in dishonor by him, as an offended judge.⁴

1. Dan. 12:2; Acts 24:15. 2. Job 19:26; 1 Cor. 15:51–53; 1 Thess. 4:15–17; John 5:28–29; Rom. 8:11. 3. 1 Cor. 15:21–23, 42–44; Phil. 3:21. 4. John 5:27–29; Matt. 25:33.

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