

Lord's Day 7 presents faith both as a bond (an engrafting into Christ) and as an activity in the life of every child of God. We are saved by grace through faith. Only when we conceive of faith as an engrafting into Christ can we understand that it is not of ourselves, but is the gift of God. This important, Reformed, biblical doctrine must be thoroughly understood and appreciated.

A. Faith as a bond.

1. The Bible speaks of faith as a living bond or engrafting in John 15:5 and Romans 11:17-20. Read these passages. As you know, branches can be grafted from one tree into another. However, these branches must be alive, and they must have the same kind of life in them as the tree into which they are to be grafted.
 - a. The entire human race belongs to one tree, the tree of Adam. This tree is _____ and produces no fruit unto God.
 - b. Branches from this dead tree can be made living branches only through _____. (See Question and Answer 8.)
 - c. When God regenerates a person, He places that person in union with Christ. Thus the life of Christ flows to us through the living bond of faith, and the result is that we produce _____.
 - d. The new tree, or vine, of Christ, receives all His benefits by _____.
 - e. Do all men belong to the new tree of Christ? _____
 - f. According to John 15:1, 2, God is the _____ who cares for the vine in two ways:
 - 1) _____.
 - 2) _____.
2. The Belgic Confession has a beautiful article on faith, Article 22. Read it carefully. Concentrate on the last few sentences of this article. We do not find the word "bond" here, but we do find a similar word, "instrument."
 - a. Quote the words from the last sentence that show that the bond of faith can never be broken. "_____."
 - b. The article also states that faith itself does not justify for it is "_____."

B. Faith as the believer's activity.

1. When the regenerated, engrafted child of God hears the preaching of the gospel, he is called, comes to faith, and is converted.
 - a. The Catechism describes this true faith as _____ and _____.
 - b. What is the difference between knowing God and knowing about God? _____

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- c. Is it possible to have confidence without knowledge? _____

2. It is very important to notice the relationship between election and faith.
- a. A person must certainly believe if he is to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Read John 3:16 and 36.
- b. But the question is, who will believe? Read John 10:26.
- 1) Which is first, being a sheep or believing? _____
- 2) When or how does a person become a sheep? _____

- c. Which is first, having eternal life or believing? _____

- d. The Canons have much to say about saving faith. Read the Canons I, Articles 6 and 9.
- 1) Quote the first line of Article 6: “ _____
_____.”
- 2) Read Article 9 again. Election is called the _____ out of which flows forth _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____ as fruits and effects.
- 3) We are not chosen because of faith but _____.