

# A Glorious Church

Eph. 5:25-27

## Introduction:

- A. Glorious means honorable, magnificent, splendid.
- B. Glorious in eyes of Lord.
- C. Glorious and popular not synonyms (cf. Rev. 3:1).
- D. Glorious church has certain traits.

## Discussion:

### I. It Is Spiritually Clean

- A. Cleansed by washing of water by word. (v. 26; John 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:22-25).
- B. Without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. (v. 27; Jas. 1:27)
- C. Touching not the unclean things. (2 Cor. 6:17-18)

### II. It Is Doctrinally Sound

- A. Endures sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2-4).
- B. Receives and teaches whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27-31)
- C. Actively opposes false doctrine. (Tit 1:9, 11).
  - 1. From without.
  - 2. From within.

### III. It Is Faithfully Active

- A. Not just active, but lawfully so. (Cf. Matt. 7:22-23)
- B. In worshiping in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
- C. In doing the work of the church.
  - 1. Evangelism (1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Cor. 11:8)
  - 2. Caring for its needy. (Acts 6).
  - 3. Edifying itself. (Eph 4:16)

### IV. It Is Scripturally Structured

- A. Many forms of church structure in world.
  - 1. One man pastor system.
  - 2. Women in leadership
  - 3. Man-made standing committees
  - 4. Area, district, national, universal.
- B. New Testament church simply organized.
  - 1. Bishops, deacons and saints. (Phil. 1:1).
  - 2. Local in nature (Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
  - 3. May exist not fully organized until men are qualified.
- C. New Testament churches were male-led
  - 1. In the assembly (1 Cor. 14:34-35)
  - 2. Women not to teach or have authority *over man* (1 Tim. 2:11-14)
  - 3. Elders and Deacons were men. (1 Tim 3:3-12; cf. Acts 6:3)
  - 4. What about Acts 15:22 and Acts 6:5?
    - a. Acts 15:22 with 15:6 and 1 Cor. 14:23.
    - b. Acts 6 says nothing of the choosing or selection process – Did women lead? Vote? etc.

## Conclusion:

- A. Are you a member of that glorious church?
- B. Have you been washed?