

What The Church Needs Now

Ephesians 5:25-27

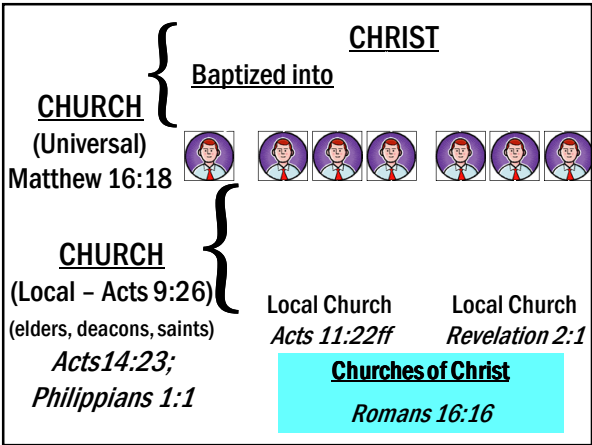
Ephesians 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious (church), not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Salvation Is In The Church

The church will be presented a "glorious" church.
Ephesians 5:26-27

- "Metaphorically, a glorious Church, signifying the Church adorned in pure and splendid raiment as a bride (Ephesians 5:27)" (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
- "Figuratively equivalent to free from sin, (Ephesians 5:27)" (Thayer)

Those NOT in the church, are NOT so honored.



What The Church Needs

- Gospel Preaching
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-4 Responsibility of preachers. (2 Timothy 1:13)
 - Romans 1:16 Power of God to save. (Romans 3:9,23; 2 Thessalonians 1:8)
 - Galatians 1:8 Warning against preaching any other. (Galatians 5:4; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Peter 3:3-7, 15-16, 18)
 - John 12:48 Standard of judgment. (Romans 2:16)

What The Church Needs

- Unity.
 - John 17:20-21 Jesus prayed for it.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10 Paul commanded it. (1 Corinthians 4:17)
 - James 3:13-18 Consequences of division.
 - Matthew 12:25 Cannot stand divided.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3 Individual responsibility.

What The Church Needs

- Capable elders.
 - 1 Timothy 3:1 Desire the work.
 - 1 Peter 5:1-3 Know and understand their duties.
 - Acts 20:28-30 Take heed to self and the flock.
 - Hebrews 13:17 Watch.
 - 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9 Qualifications.

What The Church Needs

- Consecrated members.
 - Matthew 5:6 Those who *“hunger and thirst”* for righteousness. (cf. 1 Peter 2:1-2)
 - Matthew 6:19-21 Those who have priorities in order.
 - Matthew 16:24 Those willing to deny self. (cf. Romans 12:1-2)
 - Former life. Ephesians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:1-4
 - Matthew 6:33 Those who put the kingdom first. (Matthew 13:44-45)

What The Church Needs

- Discipline.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 Begins with teaching. (1 Timothy 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:2)
 - Romans 16:17 Some teach error. (cf. Acts 15; cf. Galatians 2:5)
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 2 Thessalonians 3:6 Some walk disorderly.
 - 1 Corinthians 5:6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Ungodliness influences others.

What The Church Needs

- Work.
 - 1 Timothy 3:15 Proper behavior.
 - Ephesians 3:21 Church to glorify Him.
 - Ephesians 4:11-14 Edification. (1 Corinthians 14:26)
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 Worship, Attendance.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 Study.
 - 2 Timothy 2:2 Teaching.

Conclusion:

- God planned, purposed and established the church that she might be a glorious church.
Ephesians 5:27 “that he might present the church to himself a glorious (church), not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
- Each member must ask, “If all the members were just like me, what kind of church would this be?”