

## The Glorious Church

Ephesians 5:25-27

## First Century Church Grew

- Acts 2:41 – Three thousand
- Acts 4:4 – Five thousand
- Acts 6:7, “*Number of disciples multiplied ... exceedingly.*”
- Acts 9:31, “*So the church throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, was multiplied.*”
- Acts 11:24, “*... and much people was added unto the Lord.*”
- Acts 18:10, “*... I have much people in this city*”  
cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

## How Did The Church Grow And Maintain Its Distinctiveness?

**Note:** The 7 churches of Asia Minor.

- Writer: **Revelation 1:5-8; 17-19**
- Recipients:
  - Two churches receive only commendation. **Smyrna and Philadelphia.**
  - One church received only condemnation. **Laodicea**
- Four churches received a mixed report of commendation and condemnation.
- “***I know***” is found in all seven. Revelation 2:1; 2:9; 2:12; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; 3:15.

## Qualities That Must Be Present

Works ... Revelation 2:19

Ephesians 2:10, “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them.*”

- The word of God was taught BY EVERY CHRISTIAN. Acts 8:4; cf. Matthew 28:18-19; 2 Timothy 2:2

## Qualities That Must Be Present

Keep the church morally pure.

- Ephesus. Revelation 2:2
- Thyatira. Revelation 2:20
- Sardis. Revelation 3:4
- We do not withdraw from people because they sin (cf. Romans 3:23; 1 John 2:1)
- We withdraw from people because they sin and refuse to repent. cf. 1 Corinthians 5; especially verse 6

## Qualities That Must Be Present

Keep the church morally pure.

- Discipline Must Be Practiced:
  - To save the erring Christian.  
1 Corinthians 5:5 (cf. 2 Corinthians 2:6).
  - To prevent shame and reproach.  
1 Corinthians 5:6
- Upholds Christ’s church in the eyes of the world.
- Helps us consider ourselves. Galatians 6:1

## Qualities That Must Be Present

### Identify And Correct False Teachers.

- Examples:
  - Ephesus. Revelation 2:2
  - Pergamum. (compromise) Revelation 2:14
  - Philadelphia. Revelation 3:8

## Qualities That Must Be Present

### Identify And Correct False Teachers.

- Divine standard of truth. John 17:17; John 7:24; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Need for godly elders. Acts 20:29, 30; Titus 1:9
- Note the shepherds of Israel. Ezekiel 34

## Qualities That Must Be Present

### Perseverance.

- Examples:
  - Ephesus. Revelation 2:2-3
  - Pergamum. Revelation 2:13
- Devil makes life difficult.
  - Worthy adversary. 1 Peter 5:8
  - Must count the cost. Luke 14:25-28
  - Opposition may be from our own family. Matthew 10:34-39
- NOTE: The heroes of faith. Hebrews 11

## Qualities That Must Be Present

### Keeping the passion alive.

Example.

- Ephesus. Revelation 2:4-5  
*"Thou dost leave thy first love."*

Background.

- Faith in Christ. Ephesians 1:15
- Endured with boldness the teaching of the gospel. Acts 19:8

## Qualities That Must Be Present

Background.

- Publicly and from house to house. Acts 20:20
- Heard Paul daily in the school of Tyrannus for two years. Acts 19:9-10
- Investigated and exposed false teachers. Acts 19:13-20; Revelation 2:2
- Evangelized. Acts 19:20, *"All Asia heard the word of the Lord."*

## Qualities That Must Be Present

### Maintain genuine love for one another.

Example:

- Thyatira. Revelation 2:19; cf. 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Peter 1:22-23; John 13:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

### Qualities That Must Be Present

#### Keep a strong faith.

Example.

- Thyatira. Revelation 2:19

Necessity of faith. Hebrews 11:6

- Abraham. Genesis 15; Romans 4; James 2
- Paul. *"I believe God, that it shall be even so as it hath been spoken unto me."* Acts 27:25

### Qualities That Must Be Present

#### Stay alive.

Example.

- Sardis. Revelation 3:1 – Good reputation, but dead.

### Qualities That Must Be Present

#### What about Fifth Street East?

- Measure it by the quality of worship. John 4:24
- Measure it by the thirst for truth. Matthew 5:6
- Measure it by the young people and their knowledge of truth. Proverbs 22:6; Judges 2:10
- Measure it by what is taught. 2 Timothy 4:2ff
- Measure it by its leadership. Acts 20:28
- Measure it by our attitude toward each other. cf. Galatians 6:1

### Conclusion

- Works, moral purity, identifying and correcting error, perseverance, keeping the passion alive, loving one another, strong faith, staying alive are necessary to make us what we want to be.
- The church belongs to Christ, because He bought it with His own blood. Acts 20:28
- It is important that we see true growth and greatness through His eyes.