

THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD WANTS (Part 2)

Ephesians 5:23-27

1

Review of Part 1

God Wants A Church

- That honors Christ as builder
 - That Jesus built
 - That Jesus "pitched"
 - The "true tabernacle"
- That honors Christ as the head
 - That does not honor any other man
- That is guided only by the Bible

2

GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That wears a God given name

- Many claim there is nothing in a name
 - But we know there is something in a name
 - God named Adam; Adam named Eve
 - Genesis 5:1-2 – "called their name Adam"
 - Genesis 3:20 – "The man called his wife's name Eve"
 - Adam named every living creature
 - Genesis 2:19-20 – "The man gave names ..."
 - God changed Abram's name
 - Genesis 17:4-5 – "your name shall be Abraham"

3

GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That wears a God given name

- The Lord's church has a scriptural name
 - Matthew 16:18 – "... I will build my church"
 - Romans 16:16 – "... the churches of Christ"
 - Acts 20:28 – "... the church of God"
 - I Timothy 3:15 – "... the church of the living God"
 - Hebrews 12:23 – "the assembly of the firstborn"
 - Acts 2:47 – "the Lord added to the church daily"

4

GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That is converted

- It is essential that one be converted to gain heaven
 - Acts 3:19 – "turn again ["be converted" KJV]"
 - Romans 12:1-2 – "... be transformed by the renewal of your mind"
 - Romans 6:17-18 – "... you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart ..."
 - Acts 2:47 – "those who were being saved"
 - Matthew 18:1-4 – "unless you turn ..."
- Many of the Jews of the first century were not converted
 - Matthew 13:14-15 – "turn, and I would heal"

5

GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That are students of His Word

- The Scriptures exhort God's people to study the Word
 - II Timothy 2:15 – "rightly handling the word of truth"
 - Acts 17:11 – "examining the Scriptures daily"
 - II Peter 3:18 – "grow in the grace and knowledge"
 - Psalms 1:1-6 – "... on his law he meditates day and night"
 - I Timothy 4:13 – "... reading of Scripture"
 - Hosea 4:6 – "destroyed for lack of knowledge"

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That are students of His Word

- We must study to know:
 - **God**
 - Acts 17:22-28 – “that they should seek God”
 - I Corinthians 1:21 – “what we preach ...”
 - **Christ**
 - Luke 24:44 – “These are my words ...”
 - John 5:39 – “... they that bear witness ...”
 - **Heaven**
 - Revelation 21:1-4 – “... a new heaven ...”
 - **Hell**
 - Revelation 20:10 – “thrown into the lake ...”
 - **God’s plan of salvation**
 - John 6:44-45 – “Everyone who has heard and learned”
 - John 8:32 – “if you abide in my word”
 - Mark 16:16 – “... will be saved”

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That abounds in good works

- Ephesians 2:8-10 – “created in Christ Jesus for good works”
- Revelation 14:13 – “for their deeds follow them”
- Philippians 2:12-13 – “as you have always obeyed, so now”
- I Corinthians 15:58 – “always abounding in the work of the Lord”

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That is united

- Jesus prayed for unity in truth
 - John 17:20-21 – “... all be one”
- Paul exhorted the Corinthian church that was in **union**, to be **united**
 - I Corinthians 1:10-13 – “no divisions among you”
 - I Corinthians 3:1-7 – “after the manner of men”
 - I Corinthians 11:17-18 – “divisions among you”
- Paul revealed the provisions God gave for unity to be possible
 - Ephesians 4:1-6 – “... the unity of the Spirit ...”
- To be in unity is pleasant
 - Psalms 133:1 – “... when brothers dwell in unity”
- Division and confusion exists when we are not in unity; this brings God’s condemnation

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That is clean

- Saints are purified by obeying the truth
 - I Peter 1:22-23 – “Having purified your souls ...”
 - John 15:1-3 – “Already you are clean ...”
 - James 1:21 – “... put away all filthiness ...”
- Christians are to have no fellowship with the works of darkness (immorality, error, etc.)
 - II Corinthians 6:16-7:1 – “let us cleanse ourselves ...”
 - I Thessalonians 5:22 – “... every form of evil”
 - Ephesians 5:11 – “Take no part ...”
 - I Peter 2:1-2 – “put away all malice and all deceit”
 - II Peter 1:5-11 – “be all the more diligent ...”
- To have a clean church, requires that each member be clean
 - I Corinthians 12:27 – “you are the body of Christ... ”

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That is sacrificing

- We need to have a mind like the saints in Macedonia
 - II Corinthians 8:5 – “... overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part”
- We must offer ourselves as a living sacrifice
 - Romans 12:1-2 – “... present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God”
- Such a sacrifice includes our ...
 - Self
 - Time
 - Talents
 - Money

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That watches and looks ahead

- The Scriptures exhort saints to watch
 - II Timothy 4:3-5 – “not endure sound teaching”
 - Matthew 26:41 – “Watch and pray ...”
 - Revelation 16:15 – “the one who stays awake”
 - Luke 12:37 – “whom the master finds awake”
- Why should we watch
 - The devil is our adversary
 - I Peter 5:8 – “Your adversary the devil prowls”
 - The strongest was overcome – **Samson**
 - The holiest was ensnared – **David**
 - The wisest was deceived – **Solomon**
 - The boldest was intimidated – **Peter**
 - Christ will come as a thief
 - Revelation 16:15 – “I am coming like a thief”

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That is loving and affectionate

- God is the source and example of the greatest love
 - John 3:16 – "... God so loved the world"
 - Romans 5:8 – "... God shows his love for us ..."
- Jesus expressed love and affection in His prayer to His Father
 - John 17:20-23 – "... even as you loved me"
- We must love God, His Son, and our brethren because He first loved us
 - I John 4:7-8, 19 – "... he first loved us"
 - I Peter 1:22 – "love one another earnestly ..."
 - I Thessalonians 4:9 – "... taught by God to love"
- Our love is demonstrated by keeping (obeying) the commandments of God

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GOD WANTS A CHURCH

That worships in spirit and truth

- How we worship matters to God and it must matter to us
 - Matthew 15:9 – "in vain do they worship me"
 - John 4:23-24 – "worship the Father in spirit and truth"
 - "in spirit" – proper attitude of mind
 - "in truth" – by the word of God
 - John 17:17 – "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth"

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God Wants A Church

- That wears a God given name
- That is converted
- That are students of the Word
- That abounds in good works
- That is united
- That is clean
- That is sacrificing
- That watches and looks ahead
- That is loving and affectionate
- That worships in spirit and truth

15

WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO

- Hear the Word of God
 - James 1:21 – "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
- Believe the Gospel message
 - Hebrews 11:6 – "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

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WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Romans 10:9-10 – "... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

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WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO

- Be immersed in water
 - Acts 2:38 – "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:12-14 – "... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end"

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