

# What The Church Needs Now

Ephesians 5:22-32

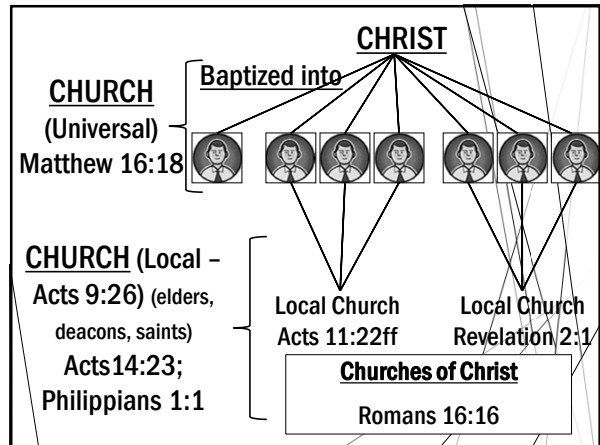
Ephesians 5:25-27, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious (church), not having spot or wrinkle or any such 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 4:2ff - Responsibility of preachers. (2 Timothy 1:13)
  - ▶ Romans 1:16 - Power of God to save. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)
  - ▶ Galatians 1:6-8 - Warning against preaching any other. (2 Peter 2:1ff)
  - ▶ 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.
  - ▶ James 3:13-18 - Consequences of division.
  - ▶ Matthew 12:25 - Cannot stand divided.
  - ▶ Romans 4:1ff - Individual responsibility.

## What The Church Needs

- ▶ Capable elders.
  - ▶ 1 Timothy 3:1 - Desire the work.
  - ▶ 1 Peter 5:2-3 - 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). Knowledgeable members! Ephesians 3:14ff; Colossians 1:9ff
  - ▶ Matthew 6:19-21 - Those who have priorities in order.
  - ▶ Matthew 16:24 - Those willing to deny self. (cf. Romans 12:1ff)
  - ▶ Former life. Ephesians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:1-4
  - ▶ Matthew 6:33 - Those who put the kingdom first.

## 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)
  - ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 2 Thessalonians 3:6 - Some walk disorderly.
  - ▶ 1 Corinthians 5:1-11; 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 4:11ff - Edification. (1 Corinthians 14:26)
  - ▶ Hebrews 10:24-25 - Worship, Attendance.
  - ▶ 1 Timothy 2:15 - Study.
  - ▶ 2 Timothy 2:2 - Teaching.
  - ▶ James 1:27 - Visit those in need.

## 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?”