

A Glorious Church

Introduction. The events of the last few decades have left a bad impression of “church” in the minds of a lot of people. We’ve grown weary after hearing about the Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker rape and fraud scandals, the Jimmy Swaggart sex scandal, Creflo Dollar being accused of asking for funds to purchase a Gulfstream jet and domestic violence, the Vatican leaks scandal, the Boston Archdiocese sexual abuse scandal, and the Hillsong Church scandal.

But Paul, by inspiration of the Spirit, called the church “glorious” in Ephesians 5:27. “Glorious” is variously translated as “splendid, gorgeous” (Luke 7:25); “notable, memorable” (Luke 13:17); and, “distinguished, honored” (1 Corinthians 4:10).

I want to show you that the church is something that rises above the scandals that have existed in organized religion over the last few decades. There’s four points that we’ll explore in our lesson.

I. It’s the Result of the Work of the Godhead

- A. Ephesians 3:10-11.
- B. Acts 20:28.
- C. John 16:7-11, 13.

II. It’s the Temple of God and Body of Christ

- A. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.
- B. Ephesians 2:19-22.
- C. Romans 12:4-5.
- D. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.
- E. Ephesians 4:16.

III. It’s Job Is to Preach the Gospel

- A. 1 Peter 1:1-2.
- B. 1 Timothy 3:15.
- C. Colossians 1:3-8.
- D. Acts 8:4; 11:20; 20:31; 28:23-31.

IV. It’s Composed of the Sanctified in Christ

- A. 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30.
- B. Hebrews 10:10, 14.
- C. Philippians 2:14-16.
- D. 1 Peter 2:4-10.
- E. Titus 2:6-8.

Conclusion. Are you a part of His glorious church? You can be! All it’ll take is a resolute desire to obey the gospel from the heart (Romans 6:17). On her wedding day, nothing disfigures the beauty of the bride. We want to be a part of the unsullied glorious church and we want you to be a part of it too. The Lord calls you to obey and we invite you to respond to His wonderful grace.