

In What Do We Glory?

Introduction. We are assembled today as members of the church of Christ, and are dedicated to replicating what occurred in the first century. Ephesians 5:27 calls the church "glorious," and we need to examine what makes the church "glorious" in nature.

I. *Man's Standard Of Glory*

- A. Glory is not in numbers. Today many groups are seeking to build churches by "numbers." People believe that the more in attendance the greater the church must be (Judges 7:2, 7; 1 Samuel 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14; 20:16).
- B. Glory is not in building size. Look around at religious buildings or worship centers, as they are called. Each group tries to outdo the other with cathedrals, glass houses, Compaq center, etc. (Matthew 24:1-2; Acts 17:24).
- C. Glory is not in impressive liturgy. The worship of the church is simple (Acts 2:42-47). It is not made more glorious by impressive ritual (Matthew 6:7).
- D. Glory is not in great wealth. Many sophisticates will only attend where there is great emphasis on the financial state of the church (Matthew 13:22; 1 Timothy 6:10).
- E. Glory is not in human wisdom. Great wisdom or complex theological concepts of preachers, members, councils, or conventions will not make the church more glorious. Many who spend years in seminary teaching have left the faith and followed their own wisdom (Proverbs 3:5; 1 Corinthians 1:18-21).

II. *God's Standard Of Glory*

- A. "Glorious" means "held in good or in great esteem, of high repute; illustrious, honorable, esteemed" (Luke 7:25; 1 Corinthians 4:10). Since we should not glory in any of these false standards, the question remains as to what makes the church glorious?
- B. We can suggest several reasons.
 - 1. It has a perfect head (Ephesians 1:23; 5:23).
 - 2. It has a perfect law (James 1:25; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Jude 3).
 - 3. It has a perfect government (Acts 6:3-6; 14:23; Philippians 1:1).
 - 4. It has a perfect mission (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Acts 4:32-37).
 - 5. It has a perfect unity (Ephesians 4:3-6, 13; 1 Corinthians 1:10).

Conclusion. The church is a most glorious institution. All of these false standards do not matter. What matters is its continuation in the design

and word by which it was built nearly 2,000 years ago. Just as Moses had a pattern of the tabernacle to follow (Acts 7:44), we have a pattern for the church. When it is what God wants, it will always be glorious.