

God is to be glory in the church.

Ephesians 3:21 “*Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*”

While the church may be belittled and even accounted as useless or even worthless by other, it is God’s house, it is metaphorically the body of Jesus Christ. God must, at all costs get glory in His churches, this is her purpose. The Apostle Paul ended his letter to the church at Rome with these words, **Romans 16:27** “*To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen...*” God warned us as Christians and church members, to be a unified body of believers. That is to love one another and to edify one another, and to care one fore the other. This is our glory shown to God in the churches. Paul wrote these words to the church at Philippi, **Philippians 2:3 - 4** “*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (4) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others wealth.*” – Please notice the word “wealth” is added because it is in *italics*. The literal translation reads like this, “*Let no one seek the things of himself, but each one that of the others.*” The church is God’s family and our eternal family. God gets glory when we spread His blessings to others. Everything in the Lord’s body is to be done by each one for the benefits of others. **1 Corinthians 14:12** “*Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual (gifts), seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*”

God get glory from our good works, He gives us blessings, but the blessings are still His. We are (as a church) one in Jesus Christ, ONE!

A. God The Father gave Jesus Christ a body, so that He could give that body for His people and His church.

1. **Hebrews 10:5 - 6** “*Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (6) In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*” Jesus shared His body in sacrifice for His people. For God’s glory.
2. **Hebrews 9:14** “*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*” Jesus Christ gave everything He had for us, to edify us to be holy and without blame. **Eph. 1:4** “*According as he hath chosen us in him before the*

foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

3. We must be like Jesus, we must glorify God by doing His word in our life, following His will, living the scriptures. **Matthew 5:13-16** *"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* – When the church is in unity the light gets brighter reflecting God's glory. **How do we (as a church) reflect our gracious Lord?**

B. What is our reflection to the world, both the saved and the lost? This is to God's glory in the church.

1. We have a responsibility to the lost. **Matthew 28:19 - 20** *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*
2. Jesus told this church in the verse before 19 – 20 in **verse 18** *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* His authority to His church was for God's glory.
3. Our responsibility to the saved is to teach them. Using every possible tool God gives us. **Verse 20** *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*
4. Paul Speaks to the Ephesian Elders had this to say, **Acts 20:20 – 21, 27 – 28** *"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, (21) Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (27) For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. (28) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased*

with his own blood." - As Pastors we can hold nothing back and as churches, we can hold nothing back. The light of God, the glory of God shines the brightest when we are walking together in God's glory. In unity always edifying one another with much grace just as our Heavenly Father and Saviour did for us.

C. We are responsible to the Truths of God's word and to the Ordinances to the church.

1. Jesus said this about John the Baptist, **John 5:32 - 34** "*There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. (33) Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. (34) But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.*" – Now He says it of His church.
2. We have a responsibility to the Ordinances of the church, both in baptism and the Lord's supper. **1 Corinthians 11:2** "*Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.*" And **verses 27-33** "*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.*"

D. Our God Given Responsibilities to the church.

1. **Hebrews 10:23 - 25** "***Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*** (24) ***And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*** (25) ***Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.***" – The meaning here in "*but exhorting one another*" means – "*They are exhorted not to let down in their attendance upon these meetings, or abandon them. They are, on the other hand to exhort each other to continued attendance, and in view of the fact of the approach of the time when the Lord would come.*" – **per Brother Wuest in His commentary.**

2. We are also to maintain unity in the church. Eph. 4:1 – 6
 3. We are to maintain Discipline in the church. 2 Thessalonians 3:6 – 14
 4. We are also to help the weak in the church. Rom. 14:1
- E. We are responsible for ourselves.
1. **Jude 1:20 - 21** *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, (21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."*
 2. To study – 2 Tim, 2:15
 3. In prayer – 1 Thess. 5:17
 4. In “mortifying the deeds of the body” Rom. 8:13 The word “Mortify” means – to kill the deeds of the body. It reminds us of **Matthew 5:29 - 30** *“And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. (30) And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”*