

# The Biblical Church

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## A Biblical Church: Successful Christians / A Successful Church

- Successful Christian – Living a life pleasing to God.
- A Successful Church – Recognized by God as His church; possessing the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. **Matthew 18:20** <sup>20</sup>“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” Emphasis is not on the number gathered together, but on the presence of God.

**Ephesians 5:25–27** (NASB)<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ** also **loved the church** and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that **she would be holy and blameless**.

**Church Structure; Purpose; Effectiveness (the church’s role in the individual’s walk with the Lord). Ephesians 4:11–16** <sup>11</sup>And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the **building up of itself in love**.

### “No Longer Children”

Without such unity the church would act like a group of babies, each crying out because of his own pains and needs, (Holman NT Commentary)

Prerequisite. The church cannot function without spiritually minded people.

**Romans 8:5–9** <sup>5</sup>For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, <sup>7</sup>because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, <sup>8</sup>and **those who are in the flesh cannot please God**. <sup>9</sup>However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Those in the flesh cannot Please God.

**Humility** – “God resists the proud.” James 4

**Unity** – “That the world can know that God sent Jesus into this world.” John 17  
“A house divided cannot stand.” (Jesus)

**1 Corinthians 3:1–3** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, <sup>3</sup>for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

## Love

- **1 Corinthians 13:1–3** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

**James 3:13–16** <sup>13</sup>Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup>This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.