

# Christian Doctrine

## The Church (Part 8)

### Qualities of a Healthy Church

#### *What the Church Should Look Like*

When a church is doing what it is intended to do, Scripture reveals that it will have a number of certain qualities. These qualities include:

- Committed to sound doctrine. God has given us the Scriptures as the source of all truth. Abandoning the truth always leads to error. A biblical church will faithfully teach God's Word and stand on its principles, even if the culture does not. (*Col. 2:4-8; I Tim. 4:6; Jude 3-4*)
- Characterized by love. We have experienced the love of Christ, and that same love should flow through each member of the church. Our love for one another should be without limits. (*James 2:8; John 13:35; 15:17*)
- Characterized by unity. In order for a body to function correctly, its member must work in unity. For this reason, Paul warned against divisions among members (*Rom. 16:17-18*). Unity comes from putting the cares of others before our own. (*I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:2; Eph. 4:3*)
- Characterized by purity. The church must be pure in doctrine and godly behavior. God works to keep His children pure, but has also given the church the responsibility for maintaining purity. (*Matt. 18:17; I Cor. 5:6-8, 13; II Cor. 2:6; II Thess. 3:6, 14*)
- Prepared to suffer persecution. In a fallen world, the rejection of God's truth and God's people is nothing new. As followers of Christ, we are told to expect persecution, just as our Savior Himself was persecuted. (*Matt. 5:11-12; I Pet. 4:12-19; II Tim. 3:12-13*)
- Anxiously awaiting Christ's return. The church has a glorious future to look forward to. We await the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (*Rev. 19:7*) as well as the time when we will reign with Christ (*II Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 3:21; 5:10; 22:5*). The church's joy is in the anticipation of Christ's glorious appearing (*I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:15-17; Titus 2:13*).

A church with these qualities will be a healthy church that has the peace and joy that comes from following Christ.