A Glorious Church

Eph. 5:25-27

Introduction:
A. Glorious means honorable, magnificent, splendid.
B. Glorious in eyes of Lord.
C. Glorious and popular not synonyms (cf. Rev. 3:1).
D. Glorious church has certain traits.

Discussion:

I. It Is Spiritually Clean
A. Cleansed by washing of water by word. (v. 26; John 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:22-25).
B. Without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. (v. 27; Jas. 1:27)
C. Touching not the unclean things. (2 Cor. 6:17-18)

II. It Is Doctrinally Sound
A. Endures sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2-4).
B. Receives and teaches whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27-31)
C. Actively opposes false doctrine. (Tit 1:9, 11).
   1. From without.
   2. From within.

III. It Is Faithfully Active
A. Not just active, but lawfully so. (Cf. Matt. 7:22-23)
B. In worshiping in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
C. In doing the work of the church.
   1. Evangelism (1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Cor. 11:8)
   3. Edifying itself. (Eph 4:16)

IV. It Is Scripturally Structured
A. Many forms of church structure in world.
   1. One man pastor system.
   2. Women in leadership
   3. Man-made standing committees
   4. Area, district, national, universal.
   1. Bishops, deacons and saints. (Phil. 1:1).
   3. May exist not fully organized until men are qualified.
C. New Testament churches were male-led
   1. In the assembly (1 Cor. 14:34-35)
   2. Women not to teach or have authority over man (1 Tim. 2:11-14)
   3. Elders and Deacons were men. (1 Tim 3:3-12; cf. Acts 6:3)
      b. Acts 6 says nothing of the choosing or selection process – Did women lead? Vote? etc.

Conclusion:
A. Are you a member of that glorious church?
B. Have you been washed?