

Doctrine of the Glory of the Church

1. The glory of the Church is revealed in her Divine election.
 - *Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, 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: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.*

2. The glory of the church is revealed by the great price, which was paid to redeem her from the penalty, power, and pollution of sin.
 - *Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

3. The glory of the Church is seen in the adoption of those who believe as children of God.
 - *Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

4. The glory of the Church is displayed in the glorious inheritance that awaits her. To the Church has been given the Kingdom of God, eternal life and the promise of a new heaven and a new earth.
 - The Kingdom of God. *Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Study Mark 10:30; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:15)*
 - Eternal Life. *John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*
 - A New Heaven and a New Earth. *2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (Study Revelation 21:1)*

5. The glory of the Church is manifested in the purpose and place she has in the plan of God.
 - *Ephesians 1:14 That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus,*
 - *Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God.*

6. The Church is no parenthetical afterthought in the mind of God. The Church occupies the pivotal place in the heart of God.
7. The glory of the church is reflected in the majesty of her Master, the Lord Jesus Christ who is King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - *Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;*
 - *Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.*
8. The glory of the Church may be seen in the fact that she is endwelt by God the Holy Spirit.
 - *John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
 - *Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.*
9. The glory of the Church may be seen in her own intrinsic holiness.
 - *Ephesians 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:*
 - *Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
 - *Ephesians 5:26 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
10. The glory of the Church may be seen in her nearness to the presence of God for the Church has the ear of heaven.

- *Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*
- *Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.*
- *Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.*
- *Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

11. The glory of the Church may be seen in the fact that to her was entrusted the gospel.

12. God has not entrusted the gospel to business, nor to the government or even to religious auxiliary organizations, or specialized ministries however good all of these things may be. The gospel is given to the Church. Only the Church has a right to say that God *having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He hath purposed in Himself (Ephesians 1:9; 3:2-5).*

‘I love thy Church, O God!
Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye,
And graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers shall ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.”