What is a Biblical Church?

Every believer needs the fellowship, support and encouragement of other Christians. We depend on each other because God says we are *"members one of another"* (Romans12:4-5). Because of this, our LORD expects each one of us to be committed members of a church. However, you should not join just any church. Even though no church is absolutely perfect (since we are all sinners saved by grace), a good church will seek to honor God and His Word. What is a Biblical Church? What does a Biblical Church look like, sound like, act like?
The Apostle Paul in the Pastoral Epistles of I & II Timothy and Titus give us the answer:

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

1. **B**_____

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

2. **I**_____

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

3. **B**_____

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

4. **L**_____

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

5. **I**_____

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

6. **C**_____

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

7. **A**_____

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

8. **L**_____

What is a Biblical Church?

Heb 10:24-25
And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
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.
(KJV)
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What is a Biblical Church? What does a Biblical Church look like, sound like, act like? The Apostle Paul in the Pastoral Epistles of I & II Timothy and Titus give us the answer:

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

1. **Bible Based**

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

2. **Integrity**

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

3. **Balanced**

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

4. **Leadership**

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

5. **Individual-minded**

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

6. **Christ-centered**

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

7. **Associations**

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

8. **Loving**

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

1. **B**ible Based

Faithfulness to God's Word will lack in the last days:
1 Tim 4:1
Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
2 Tim 3:1
This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come…
2 Tim 3:5
Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

A Church should be characterized by…

a. Commitment to Bible <u>Authority</u>

2 Tim 3:16-17
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

b. Accurate Bible <u>Interpretation</u>

2 Tim 2:15-16
Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Sound Hermeneutics
- Literal (Normal) Take it for what it says
- Context (understand the flow of thought)
- Grammar (every word)
- Compare with other Scripture

Not Allegorical
Not Traditional
Not Experiential

c. Doctrinal Bible <u>Preaching</u>

1 Tim 4:13
Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
1 Tim 4:16
Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

2 Tim 4:2-4

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

So much of "Church" today has become entertainment. Pulpits have been replaced with stages; Worship Hymns with Christian Rock Concerts; preachers with comedians; Bible exposition with storytelling, drama, & theatrics. One dissatisfied Church goer once lamented: "When will the preacher stop entertaining the goats and get back to feeding the sheep?"

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

2. Integrity

a. Ministerial Integrity

Wrongly motivated ministry

Titus 1:10-11
For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, <u>for filthy lucre's sake</u>.

b. Moral Integrity

Titus 1:16
They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

c. Doctrinal Integrity

Titus 2:7-8
In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

2 Areas where many churches lack doctrinal integrity:
*** The Baptism Issue**
*** The Tongues Issue**

c. Financial Integrity

1 Tim 6:9-11
But they that will (want to) be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some

coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

3. Balanced

a. Balanced in Evangelism

(Reaching all People; of every race or color)

1 Tim 2:4
Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Titus 2:11
For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men…

b. Balanced is our Message

Salvation is only by Grace

Titus 3:5
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

1 Tim 1:15
This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Salvation will be followed by Good Works

Titus 2:14
Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 3:8
This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

4. Leadership

a. Godly Pastoral Leadership

1 Tim 3:1-7
1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop (overseer), he desireth a good work.
2 A bishop then must be blameless (above reproach), the husband of one wife (A one-woman man; Note: He a man, not a woman; He's not a womanizer), vigilant (temperate), sober (sensible; clear headed), of good behaviour (respectable), given to hospitality, apt to teach (able to communicate);
3 Not given to wine (He's spirit-filled not liquor-filled), no striker (violent or pugnacious), not greedy of filthy lucre (not motivated by money; not materialistic); but patient, not a brawler (not contentious or quarrelsome), not covetous;
4 One that ruleth well his own house (his family is well managed), having his children in subjection with all gravity (proper respect);
5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
6 Not a novice (not a new convert or immature), lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without (a good testimony in the world); lest he fall into reproach and the snare (trap) of the devil.

b. Exemplary Leadership

1 Tim 4:12
Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

2 Tim 2:24-25
And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

c. Women Should not occupy the position of Pastoral Leadership in the Church

1 Tim 2:11-14
Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection (submission to authority).
But I suffer not (do not allow) a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man (can teach women & children), but to be in silence.
Reasons: 1) Creation order - *For Adam was first formed, then Eve.*
2) A Woman's proneness to certain kinds of Deception:
And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

5. Individual-minded

People orientated ministry. Focus is on People and not Programs

When a church gets so large that the Pastor cannot possibly know every person, it has outgrown itself and has lost a dynamic. Pastor, rather than building an empire, give prayerful consideration to church planting.

The emphasis is not bodies, bucks, & buildings, but people.

The reason we assemble is to equip the saints.

The Mature men minister to men
2 Tim 2:2
And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

The Mature women minister to women
Titus 2:4-5
That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

No Racial Prejudice, or partiality in our ministry

1 Tim 5:21
I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

Titus 3:2
To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

6. Christ-centered

a. Christ-centered in our Worship

b. Christ-centered in our Ordinances (Lord's supper & Baptism)

c. Christ-centered in our evangelism
1 Tim 1:15
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners
1 Tim 2:5-6
For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

A Church that Glorifies God has Biblical:

7. Associations

Personal, Moral, & Ecclesiastical separation are vital to a churches holiness.

2 Tim 2:22
Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Tim 2:19
Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Tim 2:4
No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

A Church that Glorifies God is Biblically:

8. Loving

1 Tim 1:5
Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

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