



# The Perfect Church

- **When men are appointed as elders & deacons, all members are in 100% agreement.**
- **All the decisions of the elders are always right & thus always please the congregation.**
- **The sermons are always good, exactly what is needed & the preacher never speaks too long.**
- **The members are always punctual to services.**
- **Everyone prepares their Bible class lesson.**

# The Perfect Church

- **None of the members ever forsake services.**
- **Every member takes an active role in the work.**
- **The members always get along with one another.**
- **If someone happens to be offended by something said or done, the matter is immediately cleared up to the satisfaction of all.**
- **Church discipline is never practiced, because the members never persist in any sin, but repent.**

# The Perfect Church??

- **The church in Jerusalem?**
  - **Acts 5, 6, 15**
- **The churches of Galatia?**
  - **Galatians 1:6-9; 3:1; 5:1-4**
- **The church at Corinth?**
  - **I Corinthians 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15**

# The Perfect Church??

- **The Seven Churches of Asia (Rev. 2-3)**
  - The church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:4-5)
  - The church at Pergamos (Rev. 2:14-16)
  - The church at Thyatira (Rev. 2:20-23)
  - The church at Sardis (Rev. 3:1-3)
  - The church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:15-19)

# Why Isn't the Church Perfect?

- **Not because of God...Perfect Eternal Purpose**
  - Ephesians 3:10-11; I Corinthians 14:33
- **Not because of Christ...Perfect Builder/Head**
  - Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:20-23
- **Not because of Holy Spirit...Perfect Revelation**
  - I Cor. 1:10-13; Eph. 3:3-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- **Not because of Pattern given to Local Churches**
  - I Corinthians 4:17; 2 Tim. 1:13; Phil. 1:1

# Why Isn't the Church Perfect?

- **Because local churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16) are made up of people like you & me!**
  - **People with...**
    - Imperfections
    - Shortcomings
    - Faults
    - Prejudices
    - Pride
    - Peculiarities , etc.

**“Does a perfect church exist today? I have not found one. I have found that some churches are stronger than others, but every church has problems. The fault for this does not lie with Christ or the pattern set forth in the New Testament. Local churches are made up of people: people who come from different backgrounds, with different attitudes, experiences, values, reactions, habits, levels of understanding, etc. Given this fact, personality conflicts, peculiarities, protests, pouting, pity-parties and the party-spirit will always persist to one degree or another in every local church. Such is unavoidable. The church is made up of people. I have yet to find a perfect church because I have yet to find a group of perfect Christians (to say nothing of a single perfect Christian).” --Heath Rogers**



# What to Do About an Imperfect Church

- **Quit attending services all together.**
- **Leave and find a “better” one.**
  - **And then if something makes us unhappy there, leave that one in search of a “better” one, etc.**
- **Stay, but develop a permanent attitude of unhappiness, discontentment, and criticism.**
- **Ignore it, that’s just the way things are.**
- **Or continually strive to improve and strengthen our relationship with the Lord and our brethren.**

# What to Do About an Imperfect Church

**1) Examine self and address my own faults.**

– Matthew 7:3-5; James 1:23-25

**2) Develop and maintain godly attitudes.**

– Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:1-5, 14-15 Col. 3:12-14

**3) Mindful of how we speak/treat one another.**

– Prov. 15:1; Matt. 7:12; I Cor. 13:5; Eph. 4:32

**4) Learn to become not so easily offended.**

– Matt. 5:38-39; I Corinthians 6:7-8; 13:4-5

# What to Do About an Imperfect Church

- 5) Pursue things that make for peace & edify.**
  - Matt. 5:9; Rom. 14:19; James 3:17-18
- 6) Always seek reconciliation with one another.**
  - Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15
- 7) Warn the unruly, and rebuke those who sin.**
  - I Thessalonians 5:14; Luke 17:3-4
- 8) Withdraw from those who walk disorderly.**
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:6; I Corinthians 5

# What to Do About an Imperfect Church

- **“What should we do about the imperfections in the local church? We should never become tolerant of them. Jesus gave Himself to sanctify and cleanse His church, that she should be holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:25-27). It is our duty to keep her that way. Perfection is our goal, and we must constantly be striving toward it.”**
  - *“The Perfect Church”*, article by Heath Rogers

# Striving For Perfection

- “Therefore you shall be **perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).
- “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28).
- “But he who looks into the **perfect** law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:25).