

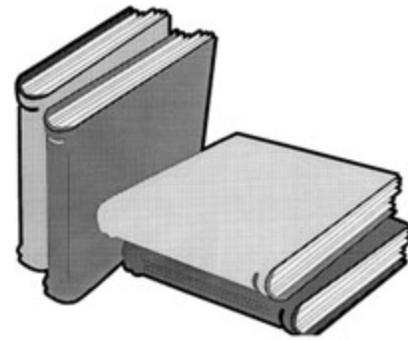
The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1011

Which church?, Continued.

The following are qualities you should look for in ... a church .."

Fourth. We should look for a **church which is gospel-centered**. We are living in unprecedented times that have no parallel in the history of the church. Many mega-churches are known for their monikers of being "seeker-sensitive," "People-driven," or "purpose-driven." If you will notice, there is one thing they have in common: they are man centered. How foreign is this thinking to that of the first Christian churches and the first Christians. They were gospel-driven, gospel-empowered, and gospel-centered.

Fifth. ... You should seek [**a church**] **where there is love for the brethren**. The Lord Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Where people are joined together by love of God's truth there will be love for the brothers and sisters in Christ. Love for the brethren is shown toward each member of the church through actions as well as words. Gossip, backbiting, criticism, and the like, will not be found. Instead, there will be fellowship and an open and shared life with one another. Love for Christ, which stimulates love for those whom Christ loves, will abound.

Sixth, look for a **church which has an evident compassion for the unsaved**. This will be seen on a local level in works of evangelism and mercy and on a global level in a burden for missions and church planting. ... A church is to strive to make God's saving name and truth known in all the earth so that He, the triune God, may be revered and worshipped by all. Any church that neglects this ... is not obedient to God and should not be joined.

Earl Blackburn, *God Loves the Church and So Should You:
Studies in Biblical Churchmanship.*
Solid Ground Christian Books 2010, p.82—84.

TO BE CONTINUED.