

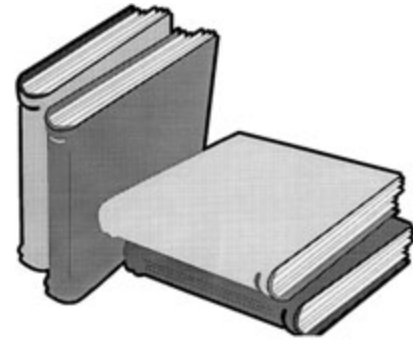
The Rock and Pit

*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 1011a

Which church?, Continued.

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

Seventh, church discipline is another important criterion in looking for a church to join. Most churches today do not care how their members live and behave, either in public or private, or with one another. Financial and sexual scandals, plus other public transgressions and personal atrocities, abound in many churches; and very little, if anything, is done about them. However, a true church of Jesus Christ will pursue genuine holiness among its members and seek to correct and help those who stray. The church will endeavor to follow the guidelines laid down by the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. ... Church discipline is not contrary to grace and love. In fact, not to implement church discipline may be one of the most unloving things a church can do. [Added note: Another area where church discipline is essential is to insure its adherence to biblical doctrine, overall and in any detail. db.]

Eighth, Look for **a church where you will be encouraged and stirred to grow in grace, holiness, love, and Christlikeness. A genuine mutual ministry** will involve each member warning the unruly, comforting the fainthearted, upholding the weak ones, and being patient with one another. This will produce an environment that will strengthen you and cause you to grow as a Christian.

Finally, consider what one writer has said:

One of the greatest needs of our times is for living, biblical churches. No other institution can adequately replace them. ... This is not a time for an apathetic, easy-going attitude toward churches. The needs are great. The pressures of ungodliness are heavy. Those who demean God's churches are legion. Daniel Wray, *The Importance of the Local Church*, Banner of Truth 1990.

Earl Blackburn, *God Loves the Church and So Should You:
Studies in Biblical Churchmanship.*
Solid Ground Christian Books 2010, p.84—86.