

How does the Word of God define the character of the Church, the body of Christ?

Galatians 3:26-27, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body."

Ephesians 2:20-22, "Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

What's more?

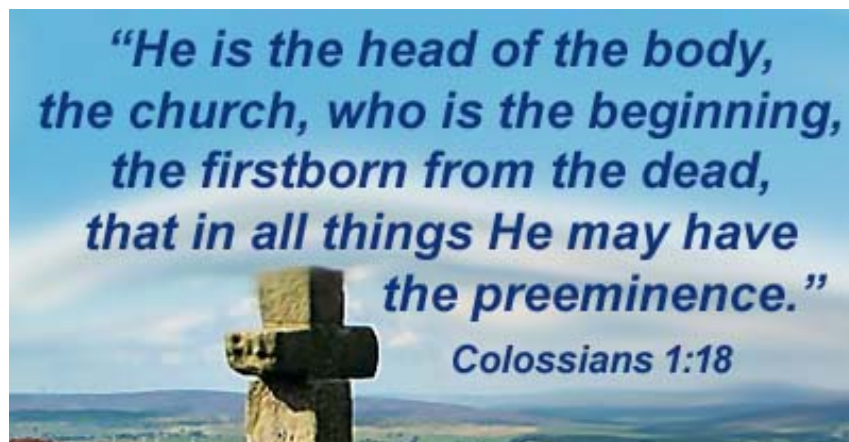
Romans 12:4-5, "We have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all."

As such Jesus said:

Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

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Jesus asked His disciples:

Matthew 16:15-18, "Who do you say that I am?"

"Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

"Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that on this rock, I will build My church."

As such Jesus also said:

John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 10:28, "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

What's more?

Colossians 1:15-16, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth."

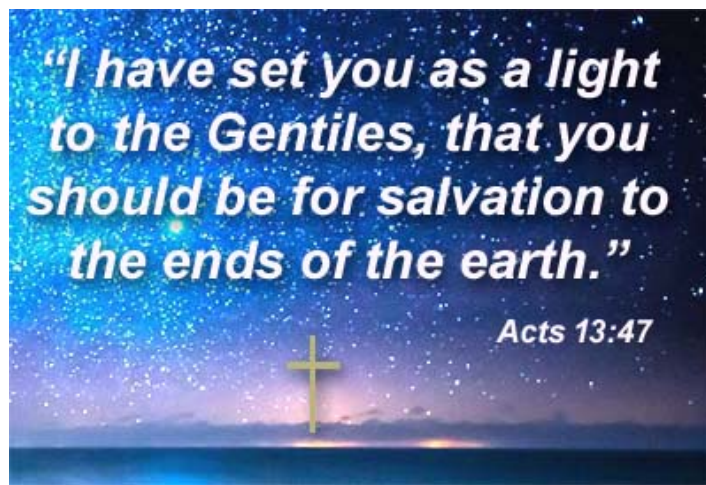
Ephesians 1:22-23, "And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body."

John 1:12, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

Therefore:

Colossians 2:10, "You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

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What is God's purpose for His Church?

Ephesians 5:26-27, "That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

Ephesians 4:12-13, "For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

As such:

Ephesians 4:15, "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ."

What's more?

Acts 1:8, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

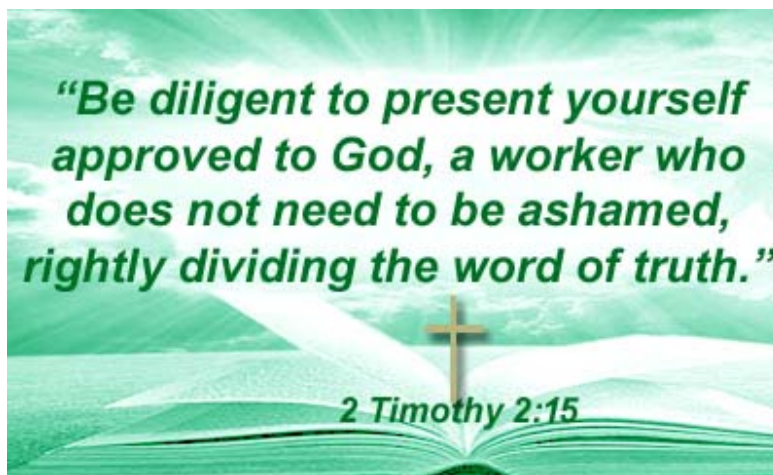
Therefore:

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Why?

2 Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

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What is the shepherd's mission in the Church?

1 Peter 5:2-3, "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the Word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

Philippians 1:27, "Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ."

What's more?

1 Timothy 3:2-3, "The overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money."

Titus 1:9, "Holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."

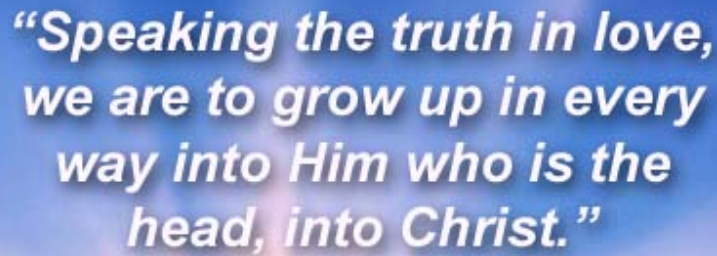
Therefore:

Acts 20:28, "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

Titus 2:1, "Speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine."

As a pastor, teacher, leader, do I live by the Word of God, abide in Christ, and steadfastly carry out the mission He entrusted me with?

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**“Speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in every
way into Him who is the
head, into Christ.”**

Ephesians 4:15

As true believers in Christ, what should the attitude of our heart be so we truly abide in Christ?

Matthew 6:33, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

Colossians 1:10-11, “Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”

1 Peter 4:1-2, “Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”

And:

2 Corinthians 6:14, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.”

Why?

Philippians 2:15, “That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

As such:

1 Peter 2:9, “You *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

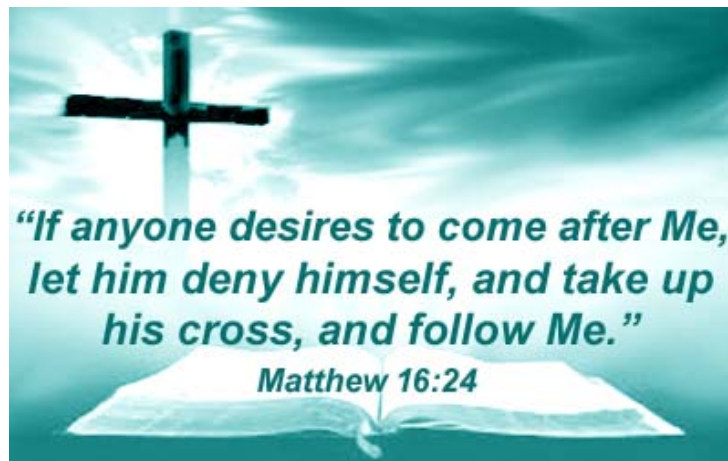
Therefore:

Philippians 2:5, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 5:8, “Walk as children of light.”

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As the Body of Christ, what is the path that we must follow, so as to truly abide in Christ the Lord?

Colossians 3:15-16, "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another."

Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Colossians 3:12-13, "As *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another."

Why?

1 John 1:7, "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

What's more?

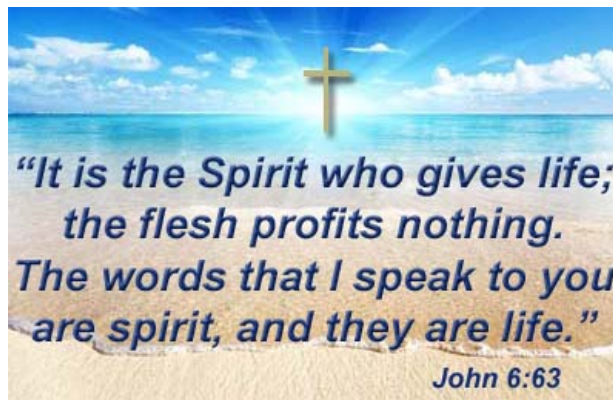
1 John 2:5, "Whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."

Therefore:

1 Corinthians 15:58, "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Am I walking the path to follow Christ as Lord?

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How is our only eternal secure anchor and source of truth defined in the Word of God?

John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

To this Jesus added:

John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Matthew 24:35: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

As such:

2 Timothy 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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

What's more?

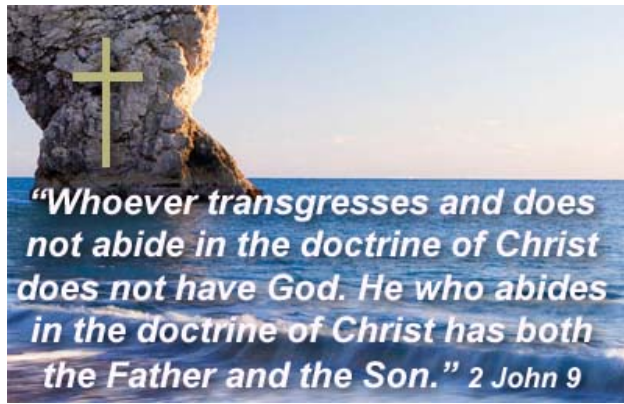
Hebrews 4:12: "The Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever."

Therefore:

Luke 11:28: "Blessed *are* those who hear the Word of God and keep it!"

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How must we be on guard against deceivers?

James 1:21-22, "Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Why?

James 1:23-24, "For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror, for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was."

What's more?

2 Peter 2:1, 3: "There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction." "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words."

And as Jesus said:

Matthew 15:8-9: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

As such:

Romans 8:9, "You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

Therefore:

Luke 11:35, "Take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness."

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