

01-05-14

Series: [The Anatomy of a Church](#)

# The Anatomy of a Church (4)

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[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 12/29/13)

*[Hold] fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.*

[Colossians 2:19; NASB](#)

*He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.*

[Colossians 1:18; NASB](#)

## A HIGH VIEW OF GOD

**It is absolutely essential that a church perceive itself as an institution established for the glory of God.** I fear that the church in America has descended from that lofty purpose and focused instead on humanity. Today the church seems to think its goal is to help people feel better about themselves. It offers people nothing more than spiritual placebos. It focuses on psychology, self-esteem, entertainment, and a myriad of other diversions to try to meet felt needs.

The church has been reduced from an organism that emphasizes knowing and glorifying God to an organization **that focuses on man's needs**.

Yet if you know and glorify God, the needs of your life are answered. **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”** ([Proverbs 9:10](#)).

[Proverbs 9:10 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

When you have a right relationship with God, everything else will fall into its proper place. I am not saying that we should ignore people's needs. We are to be concerned about people the same way God is. **But a balance must be found, and that begins with a high view of God.** We must take God seriously.

I feel righteous indignation toward preachers and others who want to take God off His throne and turn Him into a servant who has to do whatever they demand of Him. People tend to be irreverent; they do not know how to worship God. Some people think that worship is anything that induces a warm feeling. They know little about God. **There are too many**

**Marthas and not enough Marys in the church** ([Luke 10:38-42](#)).

[Luke 10:38-42 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>38</sup> **Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.**

<sup>39</sup> **She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.**

<sup>40</sup> **But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up**

01-05-14

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*to Him* and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.”

<sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

<sup>42</sup> but *only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*”

We are so busy serving that **we don’t** take the time to sit at Jesus’ feet. **We don’t** tremble at God’s Word. **We don’t** allow ourselves to be confronted by God’s holiness and our sinfulness so that He can use us for His glory.

When a person dies, we have a tendency to say, “**How could God let that happen?**” We have no right to ask that. We should ask, “**Why are we still alive?**” God, being holy, could have destroyed man when he first fell into sin. Just because God is gracious toward us is no cause for us to be indifferent. God must be taken seriously.

Look in your Christian bookstore. The vast majority of books written today attack only trivial problems. During the eras when the church was most holy, Christians had very few books to read, but the books they did have told them how to have a relationship with God. Most books today don’t do that.

A survey taken at a nationwide pastors’ conference revealed that most pastors feel they need more help in dealing with families. In spite of all the books available on family–related issues, that’s still an area where Christian leaders need more help. So the answer isn’t to write more materials about the family. The problem is that people aren’t taking God seriously enough to walk according to His laws. If families were taught a high view of God, there would not be as many family problems in the church.

**James 4:8** says, “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”

**James 4:8-10 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

<sup>9</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Would you like to live your life with God near you? If you draw close to God, He will come close to you. But you say, “When I get near God, it is easy to become nervous.” That’s why **James 4:8** also says, “**Cleanse your hands, ye sinners.**” The closer you get to God, the more you see your own sin. Consequently, you will humble yourself and mourn over your sin. **James 4:10** says that when you’ve humbled yourself before the Lord, “**He shall lift you up.**”

We must take God seriously and exalt Him; we don’t want to have a man–centered church. We are to reach out to people in the love of Christ, but God is still to be the focus of our worship and our life.