

“THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH”

I Timothy 3:14-16

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INTRODUCTION

There are times when we forget the importance and the Majesty of the church.

Who invented the church? When did it start? What is its function? Why is it important?

This passage, along with a few others, gives us some answers.

YOU MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH AND TAKE YOUR PLACE WITHIN IT!

Before we examine the evidence, we must note some personal issues with which Paul deals in vv. 14-15a:

- 1) Paul was hoping in God’s providence to be able to come soon to Timothy in Ephesus (14).
- 2) He realized that there was a possibility of his being delayed (15a).
- 3) Therefore he has written these instructions for Timothy—both those in chapters 1-3 and those yet to be given.
- 4) These instructions concern how **one** or how **Timothy himself** ought to conduct themselves in the church.

God wants you to know how to live in the church—how to properly conduct oneself.

But now, what is the church and why is it important?

I. IT IS THE ASSEMBLY OF “CALLED-OUT-ONES.”

- Jesus started the Church on the day of Pentecost when He sent the HS to fill believers and empower them for service.
- The Greek term was commonly used in the first century for a free assembly of citizens.
- The etymological meaning of the term is “called out ones.”
- It is important to know from where the people are called, and to what they are called.

II. IT IS GOD’S CHURCH—He owns it.

A. Jesus told the apostles that He would build it and that it was His church: Mt. 16:18.

B. The God to whom the church belongs is “**Living**.”

- He is alive and not dead like false gods and idols (continual OT theme).
- He is the source of life—natural and spiritual.
- Those who have a relationship with Him through His Son have life—Jn. 5:24; I Jn. 3:14.
- God is continually living; therefore, so are those who belong to Him.

III. IT IS GOD’S HOUSEHOLD/HOUSE—It is his family.

A. He lives in His house (I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20)

B. He is the Head of His household.

C. The members are related to Him and to one-another—Eph. 2:19.

D. Each local church (here Ephesus) has this distinction and privilege [no articles used here].

IV. IT IS THE “PILLAR AND SUPPORT/BULWALK/BUTRESS OF THE TRUTH.

A. The function of a pillar

- B. The function of a bulwark/buttness/stay/support
 - C. The Church is the defender and support of the **truth**.
 - Therefore, it must defend truth.
 - It must promote truth.
 - It must oppose error.
 - It must heed truth, handle it rightly, and hide it in the heart.
 - It must hold it forth as the “word of life.”
 - It must live the truth in everyday life.
- V. IT HOLDS THE “MYSTERY OF THE FAITH/MYSTERY OF GODLINESS (3:9; 3:16)
- A. These doctrines are commonly held and confessed (16a).
 - B. These truths are unknown to unregenerate man and unknowable apart from divine revelation (mystery).
 - C. The doctrines involve both teachings and practical living—godliness.
 - D. These doctrines center around, focus on, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.
 1. Revealed in the flesh—incarnation
 2. Vindicated in the Spirit
 3. Seen by/appeared to angels
 4. Preached unto the Gentiles
 5. Believed on in the world
 6. Received up into glory

CONCLUSION

“Great is the mystery of godliness!”

And this profound revelation from God has been given to the church for support and protection and strengthening!

In fact, the church is God’s household; the household of the Living God.

We need to take seriously the privilege of being part of His church and honor our God who owns us by **conducting ourselves in a godly Christ-like manner worthy of His name.**

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