

The Ministry and Message of the Church

1 Timothy 3:14-16

Introduction: At the end of 1 Timothy 3, Paul takes us back to the basics of church ministry. He answers basic questions regarding the church.

I. Who are we? 3:15

1. We are the Family of God Eph 5:1-2

We are members of the family of God that requires a certain kind of conduct that reflects the character of the Father.

2. We are the testimony to the Living God

We represent His power and grace to a world given over to dead, pagan religions.

3. We are the Guardians of God's Word

II. Why are we here? 3:15

1. We are to proclaim God's Word John 17:14, 17; Phil 2:15-16; 1 Cor 1:23-24

"the truth" = God's revelation in Scripture & in His Son

How do we fulfill our ministry?

- 1) Hear the Word 1 Tim 4:6, 13
- 2) Read the Word (give the meaning) Neh 8:8; Acts 2:42; Col 4:16
- 3) Apply the Word ("exhortation")
- 4) Teach the Word

2. We are to preserve the Word ("buttress of the truth") 4:1; 6:12; 6:20-21

III. What is the message of the church? 3:16

The message is always Jesus Christ!

1. He appeared in a body (incarnation)

Jesus is God in human flesh (Col 1:15; Gal 4:4; Heb 2:14; 4:15).

2. He was Righteous in the Spirit

This phrase can be applied two ways:

- 1) He was righteous in His spirit (sinless) 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Jo 2:1; Heb 7:26
- 2) The Holy Spirit declared Him righteous by the resurrection Rom 1:3-4

3. He was seen by Angels Mat 4:11; Luke 22:43

4. He was Preached among the nations Acts 1:8

5. He was Believed on in the world Acts 2:41-42

6. He was received up into Glory (ascension) Acts 1:9-11

The mission of the church is to uphold the message of the truth about Jesus Christ!

Summary: The church is a great gift from God to His people.

- It gives us an **identity** (family of God)
- It gives us **stability** (our faith is settled on the foundation of the truth of the Bible)
- It gives us a **purpose** (demonstrate the love of Christ and proclaim the truth about Christ).

Study Questions:

1. Paul describes the church as God's "household." Share ways in which the church has cared for you or ministered to you that reflected "family life."
2. How does the church function as the "pillar and foundation of the truth"? Does this mean the church is infallible? Explain.
3. Would an unbeliever visiting your church be convinced that God dwells among you? Why?
4. What are practical ways that the church guards basic doctrines of the Bible so that the next generation is grounded? What tools have you used that helped you both in personal discipleship and teaching your children basic doctrine?
5. When someone says, "I don't need the church to be a follower of Christ" – how do you respond?