

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 _____ of God Eph 5:1-2

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

2. We are the _____ to the Living God

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

3. We are the _____ of God's Word

II. Why are we here? 3:15

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

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

How do we fulfill our ministry?

1) _____ the Word 1 Tim 4:6, 13

2) _____ the Word (give the meaning) Neh 8:8; Acts 2:42; Col 4:16

3) _____ the Word ("exhortation")

4) _____ the Word

2. We are to _____ 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 _____ !

1. He appeared in a _____ (incarnation)

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

2. He was _____ 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 _____ Rom 1:3-4

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

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

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

6. He was received up into _____ (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 _____ (family of God)
- It gives us _____ (our faith is settled on the foundation of the truth of the Bible)
- It gives us a _____ (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?