

The Church is God's Household

Introduction

- This letter was written by the elderly Apostle Paul to Timothy who was a young gifted church leader.
- Timothy had been appointed to lead the church in the city of Ephesus.
- The church had challenges with false teachers & teaching that seriously affected life & ministry in the church.
- Paul addresses ways to handle false teachers, proper public worship, qualifications of leaders & practical Christian living.

I. The Makeup of the Church (1Tim. 3:15c-d)

A. People of spiritual life

The church of God is the household of the living God (OT & NT when confronting idolatry – dead gods). Believers are made alive spiritually & brought into the family of God – household (Eph. 2:4-5). The church is a place of spiritual life – fruit & gifts of the Holy Spirit, filled with & led by the HS, etc. Our God is alive & we are alive in Christ.

B. People of truth

The people of God begin new life as a Christian in truth (Jn. 14:6). The people of God must continue the Christian life in truth (Jn. 8:31-32). The truth of God is to be the standard for the church & the church is to stand for truth (Eph. 6:14) – speaking, teaching, living, worship, ministry, etc. according to the truth. We must stand for truth regardless of pressure, opposition & temptation from the world or religion. Every local congregation should be light & salt for truth (Mt. 5:13-16) – “pillar and buttress of the truth”.

ILL: The church in Sardis had a reputation of being alive, but they were dead (Rev. 3:1). Impressive reputation to people = large amounts of money, members, influence, etc. But God looks for right motives, fruit & gifts of the Spirit, deeds of mercy & sacrificial love (Jas. 1:27).

APPL: Therefore we must resist the temptation of defining life in the church by finances, size of membership & other worldly standards. We are alive in Christ when we love & obey Him!

II. The Behavior of the Church (1Tim 3:14-15b)

A. Obedience to the living God

God is the Father of all believers in His family & He loves them greatly (1Jn. 3:1). Believers should respond to God's love & life with loving obedience (Jn. 14:15). Believers are to be holy because God is holy (1Pe. 1:16). As members of the family of God, believers should exemplify the character of God. As children who are loved by God, believers should lovingly obey God.

B. Obedience to abiding truth

“I am writing these things to you” is the description of truth to the church (Ps. 119:160; 2Tim. 3:16). The truth is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction & training in righteousness – “how one ought to behave in the household of God”.

So how do we learn the way to behave in the household of God? We learn by looking & listening – looking the example of God living through Christ & listening to His word for obedience.

ILL: A good coach instructs his players about the fundamentals of playing the particular sport. Then the coach shows the players how it is done. The players learn by example & instruction.

APPL: The same is true in the household of God. We learn by following the example of Christ & obeying the truth of His instruction (word).