



"The Mystery of Godliness Revealed"

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I. Love the _____

1 Timothy 3:14-15 "I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."

A. Because We Are the _____ of God

1 Timothy 3:15a "if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God"

1. _____ of the Father

(Galatians 3:26-28)

2. _____ Into His Household

(Galatians 4:4-7; 1 John 1:3)

B. Because We Belong to the _____ God

(2 Corinthians 6:16-18; Acts 17:24-25)

1 Timothy 3:15b "the household of God, which is the church of the living God"

1 Timothy 1:17b "immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen"

Hebrews 10:25 "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Ephesians 2:22 "In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

C. Because We Hold Up the _____ of God

1 Timothy 3:15c "the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."

Ephesians 2:19-21 "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth"

II. Proclaim the _____ of Christ

(Romans 16:25-26a)

A. Greater Than You _____

1 Timothy 3:16a "Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness"

Acts 19:34b "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

B. The _____ of Salvation

1 Timothy 3:16b "He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

1. The _____ of Christ - God Revealed In History

a. Appearing In the Flesh (The Incarnation)

(1 Timothy 3:16b; 2 Timothy 1:10a; Colossians 2:9)

b. Vindicated By the Spirit (The Resurrection)

(1 Timothy 3:16b; Romans 1:4; Romans 8:11)

2. The _____ of Christ – Heaven and Earth Testify

a. Seen by Angels (A Heavenly Witness)

(1 Timothy 3:16b)

b. Preached to the Nations (A Global Mission)

(1 Timothy 3:16b; Matthew 28:18-20)

3. The _____ of Christ - Received and Exalted

a. Believed on in the World (Saving Faith)

(1 Timothy 3:16c; John 20:4-8; 1:12; 3:16)

b. Taken Up in Glory (Heavenly Exaltation)

(1 Timothy 3:16; 4:8)

III. _____ in Light of the Gospel

A. Glorify God With Your _____

B. Walk In the Spirit

C. Join With the _____ In Worshipping Christ

D. Proclaim Christ to the Nations

E. _____ the Gospel Personally

F. Wait for Christ's Glorious Return



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BACKGROUND:

Paul uses the phrases "household of God" (*1 Timothy 3:15*) and "household of faith" (*Galatians 6:10*) to describe the family of God where believers are brothers and sisters in Christ. In *Ephesians 2:19* he said, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household". The Church is an extended family of believers related by faith, who have a responsibility to love and care for one another (*2 Peter 1:7; 1 John 3:11; 4:7*). This household grows by making disciples.

DIGGING DEEPER:

As we grow in our spiritual maturity we should grow in our concern for the household of God. Our motivation to please God should result in our care for His flock by placing the interests of others before their own (*John 21:15-18*). In *John 10* we are reminded that the good shepherd will lay down his life for his sheep while the hired hand will flee for his life because he cares nothing for the sheep (*John 10:11-18*).

1. What do you find challenging when placing the interest of others before your own?
2. In *Matthew 25:31-46*, we are told that by caring for the "least of these", we care for God. Who are the "least of these" in your life?
3. How do you personally care for "the least of these" within and outside the church?

In our American culture, individualism is highly valued and praised. Individualism is a self-focused view placing the interest of the individual above those of the group. God places the highest value on us as individuals. Considering we bare His image and He died for us (*John 3:16*) - no one is worthless. At the same time He grants us freedom to make individual choices to do what is right and decide how to use our resources and giftedness (*Matthew 21:33-41; 25:14-30*) all the while commanding us to love others as He loves us with a humble self-sacrificial love (*John 13:34*).

4. What is the opposite of individualism?
5. How has God helped you in putting others above yourself?
6. What practices have you put in place or what would you suggest to others as ways to guard against individualism?

We are to proclaim the gospel as stewards of God's truth. In *1 Corinthians 3:11*, Paul states that there is only one true foundation of our faith, which is Jesus Christ, and it is His church that is our "pillar and buttress of truth" (*1 Timothy 3:15*). Our responsibility as believers is to hold up and care for the church's commitment to sharing the truth.

7. In what ways is the church our "pillar and buttress of truth"?
8. How can the church protect itself from false teachers and errant doctrine?
9. In light of facing today's cultural issues, how can the church do a better job of sharing the truth?

TAKING IT HOME:

Paul's letter to Timothy is in part to instruct him how the church should behave in Paul's absence. Believers need to fight against individualism and place the interest of others before their own just as Jesus did. We need to live lives of obedience and righteousness worthy of the truth that God became flesh and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us so that those who believe in Him will not have to pay the wages of sin which is death.

10. What is the "mystery of godliness" (*1 Timothy 3:16*)?
11. How should you behave in light of what God has done for us?
12. What area of your life needs to change to live a godlier life?