



# We Are The Church

Pt. 10 - "A Healthy Church Commits to Church Leadership: Revisited"

1 Timothy 2 & 3 | November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

## A Working Definition of the Church ....

"A group of Christians who assemble as an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom, to affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances. To proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King, to display God's own holiness & love through a unified and diverse people; as they follow the teaching and example of the pastors/elders & overseers.

## > Jesus Has Imperium

*"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."*

- Colossians 1:15-18

## **I. Defending the Church Against Cultural Misconceptions**

"Christianity has always recognized the need for authority in society, in the home, and also in the church. The topic of leadership is particularly important, given the increasingly poor models of authority we seem to have all around us today."

- Mark Dever

~ What Mark says here is that leadership and authority is important - not just in the church, but also in our homes, and in our society's. When healthy leadership and authority is lacking, *chaos ensues*.

~ This is important because as Christians we should want peace, joy, and clarity. This is achievable because "***God is not a God of confusion, but one of peace.***" (1 Corinthians 14:33)

> **REMINDER:** The most important thing a church can do when searching for a new pastor/elder, or voting on new deacon candidates is to look at their character!

## **#1** - Paul's Usage of the Word "*Gynaikas*"

~ Regardless of translation (wives/women), we are still able to conclude that Paul had something specific in mind for some of the women in the Ephesian church that Timothy was pastoring.

~ "When it doubt, let Scripture interpret Scripture." (*cf.* Romans 16:1). We are unique in our genders as male and female - each divinely created by God with the same intrinsic value!

## **#2** - Paul's Phrase "*The husband of one wife*"

~ For a lengthy period of time, this verse has been understood in a way that prohibits qualified men from serving as deacons who were divorced.

> Two Reasons I Do Not Hold This Belief:

1) The Cultural Context and ...

2) The Logical Understanding of the Gospel (*i.e.* - What makes the most sense spiritually regarding Christ and His forgiveness.)

## **#3** - Paul Qualification & Prohibition for Elders/Overseers

> Two Views on this: Complementarian & Egalitarian

> Paul pointing back to the *Creation Narrative* stages his argument and reasoning for why the office of elder/overseer is strictly for qualified men.