

**Bible Study - Date:** February 15, 2026

**Series:** Let the Church Be the Church **Title:** More than a Building

**Text:** 1 Timothy 3:14–16 Every family has its own unique culture. Some traditions feel normal inside the family but strange to outsiders. In some cultures, parents arrange marriages. In others, families share the same bathwater (not at the same time). These practices illustrate how family culture shapes what feels normal. In the same way, the church is not just a place where beliefs are stated; it is a family where beliefs are lived out. What we profess on Sunday should shape how we live on Monday. Paul writes to Timothy because he understands that doctrine must be demonstrated. When the church lives what it believes, the gospel gains credibility in the world.

### **1. The Church Must Know How to Conduct Itself**

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 3:14–15 1 Timothy 3:4–5 1 Timothy 5:1–2, 4

Paul writes so the church will know how to live in God’s household. The church is not primarily a building—it is a people. Paul uses family language to show that believers relate to one another as fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters. The church is meant to function as a spiritual household, not a religious event people attend.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some signs that a church feels more like an event than a family?

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2. How does thinking of the church as a “household” change how you treat other believers?

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### **2. The Church Is God’s Family — We Belong Before We Behave**

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 3:15 Ephesians 2:19 John 13:34–35 Psalm 145:4 Hebrews 10:24–25

The church is God’s household because God is the Architect, Builder, Provider, and Lord of the house. Belonging comes before behaviour. We do not earn our place in God’s family; we live differently because we already belong.

- Healthy conduct flows out of identity, not performance.
- The church reflects family leadership, family relationships, family diversity, and family purpose.

- We are bound together by covenant love, not preference.
- The church is meant to be a refuge and place of formation in a fragmented world.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why is it easier to “perform” in church than to truly belong?

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2. How can our church better reflect a multi-generational spiritual family?

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**3. The Church Is the Gathering of the Living God**

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:16 Matthew 18:20 Ephesians 2:22**

The church is not defined by programs but by God’s presence. God has chosen to dwell among His gathered people. Without His presence, the church becomes a social club. With His presence, the church becomes a dwelling place of God.

- The word “church” means people called together for God’s purpose.
- God’s presence is what makes the church different from every other gathering.
- God has chosen to make His presence known through ordinary believers.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does knowing God is present among His people change the way we gather?

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2. What practices help us stay aware of God’s presence when we meet as a church?

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**4. The Church Is the Pillar of Truth, Centered on Christ**

**Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:15–16   Matthew 5:16   2 Corinthians 3:18**

The church does not create truth; it displays truth. The church reflects Christ’s light to the world. Doctrine must lead to transformation. The church holds up the gospel so the world can see it lived.

- The church displays and defends truth through both teaching and living.
- The early Christian hymn (1 Tim 3:16) centers everything on Christ.
- True transformation comes through a relationship with Jesus, not rules.
- As we behold Christ, we are transformed.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do people today want to see truth lived before they believe it?

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2. How does keeping Christ central guard the church from becoming merely religious?

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**Three Responses with Application**

**1. Live as a Member of God’s Household:** Commit to treating fellow believers as family. This week, intentionally encourage, serve, or check on someone in the church as an act of family love.

**2. Hold Up the Truth with Courage and Compassion:** Refuse to hide your faith or soften truth to fit culture. Pray for one opportunity this week to reflect Christ’s truth through your words, integrity, or kindness.

**3. Keep Christ at the Center of Your Life:** Let your relationship with Jesus shape your character more than habits or routines. Set aside intentional time this week to behold Christ in Scripture and prayer, asking the Spirit to form Christlikeness in you.

**Closing Thought** - The church does not exist to store truth—it exists to display Christ.