

## **I Timothy 3:14-16**

In chapter one we noted the kind of preaching which Paul exhorted Timothy to do - sound doctrine. In chapter two we noted the kind of practices that are to characterize a local assembly of believers - men praying and women submitting.

In chapter three we noted the prerequisites for the pastor and the deacons in the local church -

Now in verses 3:14-16 Paul is pointing out the purpose for writing these things and laying down a certain principle for all those who make up the body of Christ which is the church - each of us is to collectively uphold the truth in what we say and how we live.

**V. 14,15** - Paul gave the purpose for writing the things previously mentioned - so they would know how to conduct themselves in the house of God. Since the church is a body of believers this must be better translated in the "household" of God.

In other words proper behavior is outlined in what has already been said...

**V. 15** - The church or household of God is said to be the pillar and ground of truth. Here an architectural metaphor is used with believers upholding the truth like pillars would uphold a building structure.

**V. 16** - Paul gives the body of truth and says it is without controversy and there is no debate or arguments about the things associated with Christ.

(1)Mystery of godliness - means the previously unknown truth concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ which is now revealed in this age is great.

(2) God was manifested in the flesh - this truth refers to the incarnation of Christ who was God in the flesh ( )

(3) Justified in the Spirit - Christ was "vindicated" by the Holy Spirit. This truth is seen in His baptism (Matt. 3:15-17), His transfiguration, His resurrection and His ascension.

(4) Seen of angels - this truth indicates how the angelic hosts looked on His birth and ministered to Him in His temptation, agony in the garden, at His resurrection and ascension.

(5) Preached unto the nations or Gentiles - this truth indicates the message of the Saviour and His work of redemption has been extended to all.

(6) Believed on in the world - this truth refers to the fact that some from all the nations of the world have believed on Christ and been saved.

(7) Received up to glory - refers to the truth about Christ's ascension to heaven after His work of redemption was finished.

Now I want to give a few distinctions and directions concerning God's house.

Note in the O.T. God dwelt in the tabernacle and then the temple. But in the N.T. God dwells in His people who make up the church.

Notice while we do not worship a building the building where the church meets have been set aside for God's service and we should therefore -

## **I. TREAT THE CHURCH BUILDING AS GOD'S PROPERTY.**

This means we should not abuse it like damaging it by stepping on the pew, cutting it with knives, or writing on things and any other destructive means.

**Secondly we should -**

## **II. MAINTAIN PROPER ORDER IN OUR SERVICES**

The Scripture say "but all things be done decently and in order" (I Cor. 14:40).

This means everything is to be in an orderly manner. A church service is not to be like a three-ring service with all kinds of things going on simontaneously.

**We Should -**

## **III. RESPECT GOD'S WORD WHEN IT IS BEING PREACHED AND TAUGHT**

Most states have a law making it a crime to disrupt a church service.

This means people in services are not to be reading other things, passing notes around, talking to one another but giving attention to what God's Word has to say.

This means Christians should use bathrooms before going into services. Illus - clipping nails.

It's not a place or time to eat or drink but to show reverence and respect for the things of God.

This means when people bring babies to show them off and they disrupt the services they should be taken out to the nursery or another place.