

I Timothy 3:14-16 **The Church's Conduct**

Introduction: Vince Lombardi - hall of fame coach of the Green Bay Packers football team - He stressed the fundamentals of the game...

The Apostle Paul emphasized the fundamentals of the Christian faith to the Ephesian church that was starting to drift away from sound doctrine. Some in the evangelical church today have also drifted into Apostasy, de-emphasizing doctrine and substituting drama, music, entertainment, etc... - John MacArthur's book - "Reckless Faith"
The Theme of I Timothy: v.15a, how to behave in the church of the Living God...

I. The Master of the Church - v.15b

"In the household of God, which is the church of the living God"

A. The Church Belongs to God - Matt. 16:18

1. Oikos - not a building
2. Those holding the house - God's family - See I Tim. 3:4,5,12;
II Tim. 1:16; Tit. 1:11; Eph. 2:19; Gal. 6:10; Heb. 3:6; I Pet. 4:17

B. The Church's Character - Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:14; Tit. 2:14; I Pet. 2:9, Rev. 5:9; Josh. 3:10; Psa. 42:2; Psa. 84:2; Jer. 10:10

1. Peter's Confession of Faith - Matt. 15:15-17
2. What exactly is conversion? - I Thess.1:9

II. The Mission of the Church - v.15c - "the pillar and support of the truth"

A. The Imagery of these terms

1. The goddess, Diana
2. Paul's metaphor

B. The Church's Primary Responsibility

1. Uphold the Truth
2. No Alterations - Rev. 22:18,19
3. Collective Responsibility

C. How do we as Believers Support the Truth?

We support the truth by:

1. Believing it - Rom. 10:13-15*
2. Memorizing it - I Pet. 3:15
3. Meditating on it - Josh. 1:8, Psa. 1:2, 3
4. Studying it - Turn to II Tim. 2:15
5. Obeying it - Jn. 14:15, 15:10, Lk. 6:46
6. Defending it - Phil. 1:16
7. Living it - Tit. 2:10, Col. 19, 20
8. Proclaiming it - Matt. 28:19, 20

III. The Message of the Church - v.16

A. Chiastic Arrangement *See the White Board* - The Life of Christ from His humiliation to his exaltation. "We preach Jesus Christ crucified" I Cor. 1:23

1. "Who was revealed in the flesh" - phaneroo (phantom) - Gal. 4:4, 5
2. "Vindicated In the Spirit" - Matt.3:17 - Matt. 12:28, 29
3. "Beheld by Angels" - From His birth... to His Ascension and next on the agenda, Parousia - (the second coming)
4. "Proclaimed Among the Nation" - Matt. 28:18-20
5. "Believed on in the world" - The Result of carrying on our Lord's mandate - Rev. 7:9
6. "Taken up in Glory" - Welcomed into heaven by His Father, Angels, and Saints - Rev. 5:12 - Acts 1:11, I Thess 4:17

