

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5

6-18-23

I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

1 Timothy 3:14-15 – “I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that,¹⁵ 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.”

1. Home for GOD’S PEOPLE

“Household of God”

2. Home for GOD

“Church of the Living God”

3. Home for GOD’S TRUTH

“Pillar and buttress of the truth”

II. WHAT IS THE UPHELD TRUTH?

1 Timothy 3:16 – “Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: ‘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.’”

~ The Mystery of Jesus = The Gospel

III. PROBLEM

1 Timothy 4:1-5 – “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”

~ People renounce TRUTH for the convenience of LIES

GROWING DEEPER THIS WEEK

1. What was a key take-away you had from the message this week? What challenged you in your thinking?
2. Why is it important for us to be reminded of the Church's purpose from time to time?
3. What are some things that can distract churches from their mission as God defines it?
4. The Church is listed as "the household of God". Why is this an important designation for church unity? How does it shape the way we view each other at church?
5. The church is to uphold truth. Why is this an important function of the church in our world today?
6. Church is not the only place we are called to uphold God's truth. Share how you uphold God's truth in your world, families, jobs, etc.?
7. What are some other "truths" that churches can uphold in place of the truth of Jesus?

READ ROMANS 1:25 & 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-2

8. How do these verses relate to one another?
9. What is the best way for a church to combat lies and false teaching?
10. How should Christians approach someone who has "departed from the faith"?