

The Church: Proclaiming God's Mystery | 1 Timothy 3:14-16

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 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. 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 Character of The Church

1. The household of God

- a. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles." (Acts 2:42)

2. The residence of God

- a. "...I will build my church, and the gates of hell[c] shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)
- b. "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man..." (Acts 17:24)
- c. "There are good reasons why God should call the Church His House for not only has He received us as His sons by the grace of adoption, but He Himself dwells in the midst of us." (John Calvin)

The Mission of The Church

1. A pillar of the truth

- a. "The purpose of pillars is not only to hold the roof firm, but to thrust it high so that it can be clearly seen even from a distance...just so, the church holds the truth aloft, so that it is seen and admired by the world. Indeed, as pillars lift a building high while remaining themselves unseen, so the church's function is not to advertise itself, but to advertise and display the truth." (John Stott)

2. A buttress of the truth

- a. "...to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 3:9b-10)

The Message of The Church

1. The incarnation of Jesus
2. The life, ministry, & resurrection of Jesus
3. The witnessing of Jesus
4. The proclamation of Jesus
5. The belief of Jesus
6. The glory of God in Jesus