

## The Living God's Church – Conduct and Confession

1 Timothy 3:14-16 ESV

Lord's Day – July 3, 2022

**Hear “The Word of God” from 1 Timothy 3:14-16**

*14 – 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 (support or foundation) of the truth.*

*16 – Great indeed, (And without controversy, without question, beyond question), we confess, is the mystery (Mysterion) of godliness: He was manifested (revealed) in the flesh, vindicated (Justified) by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed (announced, preached) among the nations (gentiles), believed on in the world, taken up in glory. Prayer*

We have been journeying through the series – ‘How one ought to conduct in the household of God’ in our study of God's Living Word through the letters of Paul to Timothy and Titus.

- *God's Living Word - ‘Alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrates deep within and divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow - Heb 4:12’, ‘accomplishes God's purposes - Isa 55:11’, ‘Faith comes by hearing The Word of God - Romans 10:17’, ‘Faith is a gift from God - Ephesians 2:8’, ‘has the ability to bring forth life (eternal) and life abundant – Jn 10:10’, ‘brings about lasting and supernatural change in a person - Rms 10:17, and ‘teaches and trains one for godliness’ - 1 Timothy 4:6-7.*

The theme of 1 Timothy is, **the gospel**, (which is the good news) **unto salvation and eternal life, to those who believe in Christ Jesus**, (through true repentance and forgiveness of sin), **leads to practical, visible change in the lives of those who believe it**. These letters/epistles (Timothy and Titus) are often referred to as “pastoral epistles”, and thought that the theme is the ‘church order’ and the qualities mentioned are to those who aspire/desire to the ‘office of overseers/pastors/elders and deacons’, but it's only a part under the overarching purpose, that **the true gospel**, in contrast to false teaching, **will always lead to godliness that results in orderliness in all those who adhere to it**. Because, in the hearing of the gospel of Jesus Christ, (the good news) it is the divine act of The Holy Spirit, which initiates, invokes, causes, effects a change in a person, not by the ability of their own.

Paul highlights as he addresses both Timothy (*my true child in the faith*) and Titus (*my true child in a common faith*). We share in the same common faith (common meaning the source is the same from God), in hearing the Living Word of God that brought us near to God and have now received God's saving grace.

Do you realize, you and I, share this faith, Paul encourages us to ‘*hold to the mystery of the faith – 1Tim3:9, ‘the common faith’* that Paul shares with Timothy, and Titus and we also see other apostles mentioning. Peter, writes to his elect exile readers, that they share in ‘*the faith of equal standing*’, and Jude to his readers, writes they share in ‘*the common salvation*’.

One of the key evidence in the lives of those, effected by the gospel is **sincere faith**, enables to live a practical living in their homes, in church and in communities.

- Visible demonstrable devotion – to the stewardship from God, with an obedient servant heart to perform the duties as assigned/charged - Chapter 1
- Visible practical living – that is peaceable, quiet, godly, and dignified lifestyle - Chapter 2
- Visible practical conduct – that is ‘proper and orderly behavior’ in corporate worship through evangelistic prayer, unity, modesty, and submission (orderliness) - Chapter 2 and Godly Character Qualities of high repute - Chapter 3

When the corporate worship is orderly conducted, meaning - by walking in the fear of the Lord (as instructed/prescribed by God in His Word), there will be peace, unity and harmony among brethren (being built up) and, most of all God will be glorified, magnified through the proclamation of His word, faithfully and manifested through our practical, visible living and conduct.

Comment: Unity in the church of The Living God, does not mean finding a middle ground (to entertain, or to allow, or to mutually agree to accommodate that which is not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures), when a controversy arises, but as the one *having received the charge*, being *‘devoted to the stewardship from God, that is by faith’* - 1Tim1:4, and as it says *‘they must hold the mystery of the faith’* - 1Tim3:9, able to handle (*stand and defend*) the controversies with grace - *‘As the one approved of God, rightly handling the word of truth’* - 2 Tim2:15, in hopes to bring back the wandering sheep to the fold, knowing *‘the aim of the charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith’* - 1Tim1:5, always being mindful as a steward who must give an account to Christ, our master and the chief shepherd of the church.

Let us now look through today’s passage:

**14a – I hope to come to you soon** – Paul begins to show his desire/longing/expectation/hopeful-trust to see Timothy soon. As I read and pondered on this, I am so challenged and encouraged by Paul’s attitude towards his brethren (God’s household / Christian community), and his heart for the brethren – God-given love for the believers and concern for their spiritual growth into Christ’s likeness. We see this attitude of Paul throughout his letters and in particular, Timothy. (Whether in ministry, mission field and in imprisonment), he labors for the sake of Christ and for the advancement of The Gospel.

- The physical presence of fellow believers, in the presence of the living God’s Spirit, is a source of incomparable joy and strength for the believer. The communion and the fellowship (household of God – Church community) of those who walk with the Lord in faith, fills our heart with joy. The sweet fellowship that comes from obedience and trust in the Lord is not a passing feeling, but an enduring one, through the seasons of our lives. It helps us to sustain when passing through various trials, for in Nehemiah we read *“the joy of the Lord shall be your strength”* – 8:10. James, the Lord’s brother, writes, *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds”* – 1:2 because trials produce faith, and develop endurance / perseverance. When we persevere through trials, proving to ourselves and to others that our faith is real (visible and practical), our sense of God’s presence increases, as does our joy.
- Paul recognizes the importance of a fellowship of believers (the coming together), and we should even more, do everything it takes to come together, because this is a reasonable worship. This has everything to do with the Church.
  - In 2 Timothy – Paul speaks of Onesiphorus – *“he often refreshed me”* - 1:16.
  - Paul writing to the Roman believers, he writes, *“For I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine”* – 1:11-12.
  - Paul himself, being an apostle, a teacher, and a preacher encouraged and challenged many brethren, but it is noteworthy that their faith serves to inspire and strengthen him as well (he needed refreshment and encouragement too).

- The writer of Hebrews gently encourages us, “*And let us consider how to stir up (encourage and challenge) one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*” – 10:24.

**14b - But I am writing these things to you so that** - And here Paul gives **the purpose for his writing** the letter and the instructions he gives throughout the letter. We see the urgency of the matter here, this is not of those matters that can wait until his coming, but must be passed on, delivered, conveyed, transferred, imparted - urgently, quickly, immediately and sooner.

**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 (support or foundation) of the truth.**

- You see Paul’s concern and care for young Timothy, knowing him and the challenge at hand, and the urgency in addressing it, Paul instructs Timothy how he should behave himself in the Church of God, so as to discharge his office as minister, evangelist, and pastor with honor to himself and profit to the people.
- He reminds him that the church is the house of God, and in God’s own house a man and women (household) ought to be in their best behavior, as prescribed in the Word of God.
- God’s people who are in the house of God may learn how to behave in it, and a special prominence is given to steadfast in the faith which makes a man (and women) not only a dweller in the church, but also a pillar of it.

**First Observation: It is called the church (God’s Household).**

It’s an assembly of faithful men and women, who know the truth, believe it, affirm it and adhere to it.

- The Greek word for church is *ekklessia* – signifies an assembly called out (summoned) of the general population to exercise the right of citizenship.
- An *ekklessia*, or church, is not a building/structure, not a denomination, nor a disorderly gathering rushing together without purpose, but a regular assembly of persons called out by grace, and are gathered-together by the Holy Spirit, are obedient to Christ, who is the head.

In order to be a church according to the Word of God, there must be a selection and a calling out of people from the rest; and that calling must come from God, who calls out effectually.

This effectual call of God, touching all the members of this select assembly is for an eternal purpose which is the original reason for their being called out. To each of them there is an effectual calling by which they actually-gather into the church.

As pertains to us, I trust, each of you, who are saved, when you actually-gather into the church, you believe and understand that you are called out by God, for his eternal purposes to be accomplished (and not your own),

In Ephesians we read - “*even when we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved*” and, again “*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and that is not your own doing, it is the gift of God*” – 2:5, 8.

The effectual call of God is a GRACIOUS CALL, it's a LIFE-GIVING CALL, it's a SUPER-NATURAL CALL, it's a LIFE-TRANSFORMING CALL, it's a FREEWILL CALL to ETERNAL LIFE to the LIFE-LESS, who are spiritually dead. And those who were CALLED OUT, FOLLOW the one who called them, to gather into the church of God, where there is a hedging and fencing around the church, by which it is maintained as a separate body, distinct from all the rest. *"My sheep hear my voice and follow me, and no one will snatch them out of my hand"* - John 10:27-28.

What the church is not? The church is NOT a group of un-regenerate people coming together entirely on their own notion, to follow their own inclinations, their own beliefs, and desires, to accomplish their own sinful purposes.

The church must be an assembly of regenerate people (the called-out one's), gathered together, being renewed by the Holy Spirit, for the purposes which God himself ordains and be joined together after his own will, to be shaped/fashioned/reformed into his likeness and to reflect His (God's) image.

Jesus must be the uniting cornerstone, where the whole structure, which is the spiritual house (where God dwells through the power of the indwelling Spirit) that is being built-up, rests on firmly. As it is written in *Ephesians* - *"In Him you also are being built together, into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit"* - 2:22 and in *1 Peter* - *"In whom you are being built up as a spiritual house, to God through Christ"* - 2:5.

**Second observation: is Household conduct**, the church belongs to the Living God's, as it is called *the church of the Living God*. In the original Greek the emphasis is on The Living God and not on the church and so it is called "The Living God's Church". There are many churches which are not of God though they take his name.

- What an honor it is to be the one of the assembly of God, to be one of those whom God has chosen, whom God has called, whom God has quickened, whom God has sanctified, whom God loves and calls his own people and for his own possession. As in *1 Peter* - *"Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people, you are a chosen race, for his own possession"* - 2:9-10.
- What an honor it is in which He resides. The text does not speak of a church belonging to a region, like, 'The church of England', or 'The church of Scotland', or 'The church of South or North India', or 'The church of Nigeria', but the church of The Living God.
- Contrast to the temple of Diana, which was said that it was fallen from heaven, it is a life-less image. Diana of Ephesus is nothing but a lifeless and powerless block. Timothy knew very well that the assembly which gathered in the name of Diana was not called out by a living God.
- It is a glorious truth that our God, the God of the church, Lives and Reigns, forever. We see his sustaining power how he rules the vast universe, nature, and sea and while we see him, we adore him – Psalm 19:1.
- It is a victorious truth that our God, the God of the church, once died upon the cross and so we love and bless him, but we adore him for he rose again (never to die) to make intercession for us – Romans 8:34.
- The living God is evidently living among us by the Holy Spirit and transforming lives through conversion and by comforting and instructing saints to a life of godliness and edifying the faithful, being built-up, as living stones into the living temple of the living God. This is the church of The Living God.

**We are to understand first, by the church being God's house, that is the place of His worship.**

- The House of The Living God is the place, where the household (the faithful) of God gather (together) to worship God.

- The un-regenerate people may profess to serve him, with the best of the resources, talent, technology, the best vocals and with various instruments in harmony, but what is dead worship to the Living God? *God is Spirit and must be worshipped in truth and in spirit – John 4:24.*
- For your service to be accepted by God, you must first accept his salvation. First, be reconciled to him by the death of his son. For how does an enemy of God present to him an acceptable praise? *In Matthew – “they honor God with their lips, their heart is far from him – 15:7-9.*
  - You must first become part of the God’s church by being born again, or else you cannot worship the Lord at all. It is where the spiritual men and women are, there can be the spiritual worship; it is only with their renewed love, and with their renewed trust, and with their renewed heart of obedience, producing joy in the name of Jesus, and with their prayers, and praises, presented by the power of the Holy Spirit, that God is to be worshipped.
- Remember the old prophecy that is fulfilled, *“I will dwell in them and walk in them” - Leviticus 26:12*, and in *2 Corinthians 6:16*. God calls his church a house of his dwelling. The place where he loves to dwell, is among the assembly of his people, the church of God, where his prized possession, his elect, redeemed, regenerated, and sanctified are gathered.
  - What a glorious privilege that the believers have in God and the dignity to know that God of all universe should dwell in them? Doesn’t this glorious truth excite, encourage, and challenge you to come into his dwelling place? Not only to dwell with him in the fullness of his glory, displayed in the assembly/gathering of His saints, in his house, the church, but also to *worship the Lord in the beauty/splendor of His Holiness – Psalm 96:9.*
  - Coming together to the assembly of God must be your highest priority, above everything. Remember, God is Love, and so He loved us, and gave his life, to redeem us from the bondage to sin, by paying the penalty. For this reason, *“the church of God is a purchase of God, which He obtained with his own blood – Acts 20:28”.*
  - And believers, being part or members of the household of God, how obedient we ought to be in his house? And how much our desire to be obedient to God, be our joy, so we submit to our master, voluntarily? When we are children in the home of a living father, his rule should not be a burden to us, but be our Joy. *Psalm - “cast your burden upon the LORD for He will sustain you, he will never permit the righteous to be moved -55:22”* and again in *Matthew - “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest in your souls - 11:29”.* And with such a Father as our God, we own that his commandments are not burdensome. My hope is that we obey carefully and joyfully, each of us.

One last point – The Living God’s Church is also the bride of Christ, the bridegroom, who has sacrificially - In *Ephesians “Christ loved the church, and he gave himself up for her” - 5:25-27*, and lovingly he chose the church, to be His bride. And during this church age, the responsibility of the bride of Christ, that is the church is to remain faithful to Him - *2 Corinthians 11:2*; *Ephesians 5:24*. We are to remain faithful to Christ and to his calling, as his obedient children and his faithful servants, awaiting our Lord’s return.

### ***15b - a pillar and the buttress (foundation or basement or support) of the truth***

The temple of Diana at Ephesus was built with more than a hundred columns of great size and grandeur. They were mostly of Parian marble and was believed to be brought from various cities in all of Asia as offerings to the goddess or were contributed by the wealthy men and princes.

These pillars were said to be huge monoliths of single stones of sixty feet in height and were set upon a basement which was elevated ten steps above the surrounding area. Diana had her pillar and her basement, but she had no pillar or basement of truth, hers was all pretense throughout. It lies in ruin now.

- Now, Paul compares the church of God the basement and pillar of the truth. What does that mean?
- Notice, that **the church itself is not the truth**, nor the inventor of the truth, nor tasked with finding every-which ways to change the doctrine relative to the changing times, seasons, cultures, civilizations, scientific advancements, etc. that would be what Paul explicitly tells Timothy to oppose those who teach unsound doctrine – 1 Timothy 1:3-7, 18-19.
- This interpretation is strongly supported based on the two Greek words ‘stylos’ and ‘hedraioima’ that Paul uses translated to ‘pillar’ and ‘foundation’. ‘Stylos’ means pillar, column, support, which is used here and twice in Revelation chapters 3 and 10. ‘Hedraioima’ means prop or support and is found only in this verse. Both words come from the Greek root words which implies something that supports, steadies, holds. These are completely different to the Greek word that is used for other occurrences of foundation, in 1 Corinthians Paul’s reference to “*Christ as our foundation* – 3:11” he uses the Greek word ‘themelios’ which means foundation of a building. I think some denominations got this mixed up having this false understanding that ‘the church’ is the source of the truth and so took it upon themselves to constantly alter the doctrine in hopes to keep up with the progressively changing cultures and sentiments.
- The truth is true of itself and has its origin from God himself and the nature of things, since God alone is the truth. Jesus says, in the Gospel of John ‘*I am the truth*’ - 14:6. The church which is the support of the truth, itself rests on a rock, and the church rests on God, the Rock of ages, Christ the Solid rock on which the church stands and supports the Truth of God.
- The person who believes the truth, adhere to the truth, takes up to declare the truth, firmly holds up the truth and defends for the truth and makes it known to the world, might as well be called the pillar, for the reason the spreading of the truth depends upon him. Examples would be Luther for the reformation, and Wesley for the Methodism. Also, Paul says that “*James, Cephas and John seemed to be the pillars of the church*” – Galatians 2:9, meaning they were the upholders of the good cause and in the same way the church of God is the pillar and the support of the truth in the world.
- Those teachers and preachers who do not hold firm to the truth and to the scriptures, but drift into their own thoughts and imaginations would end up not knowing where they are, and none can tell them. Most of the false doctrines take their source from those whose task was to preach the truth. As Paul says 1 Timothy - “*Certain persons by swerving from these (not having a pure heart, good conscience, and a sincere faith), have wandered away into vain discussions, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions*” – 1:5-6.
- What Paul means here, is that ekklessia, the body of believers, ‘*the church of The Living God*’ is the structure that holds up and holds firm to the truth in the world (not to be the inventors of false doctrines). For that reason, the conduct of the body and the overseers are critically important.

So far, we have covered, The Living God’s Church (The Household of God), and Household Conduct and this bring to:

### Third observation – **Household Confession.**

***16 – Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested (revealed) in the flesh, vindicated (Justified) by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed (announced, preached) among the nations (gentiles), believed on in the world, taken up in glory.***

**Great indeed**, meaning without any controversy, without or beyond any question, no second thoughts, we confess (**Household Confession**), we profess not by shouting out loud, but by way of practical living, by way of our visible demonstrable conduct, we confess '**great is the mystery of godliness**'.

Contrast this to the devotees of Artemis or Diana of Ephesus, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice "*Great is Artemis of the Ephesians*" – Acts 19:34. I timed it to find how many times one can repeat "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians" for one minute, I was able to repeat 25 times per minute: 25 x 120 minutes = 3000 times (2 hours). The greatness of Artemis is in ruin now, the mystery of Artemis or any other religion is but worthless. But the mystery of godliness is great, as revealed to us in Christ Jesus. The truth is priceless. It is beyond our capacity to understand why God made us the recipients of his goodness and mercy to reveal his likeness, godliness in and through his Son, our Lord and savior Christ Jesus.

- The Greek word for mystery is '**mysterion**'. Whenever Paul uses the word 'mystery' he uses it to reference to Christ as the revelation of the hidden plan of salvation, to the ages before, now revealed to us.
- So, in saying 'the mystery of godliness' is 'great', he is presenting the person and work of Christ as the key to godly conduct.

Followed by Christ-saturated Hymn:

**He was manifested in the flesh** - It is but a mystery that 'God was manifested in the flesh'. This was the most amazing doctrine of Incarnation. The God who created the vast universe and the one who holds it all, the one who is Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent, who is above time, space, and matter, "*who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable lights*" – 1 Timothy 6:16, veiled his glory, entered time, space and matter, revealed himself as a son of man, by taking on human flesh, born in a manger. The one who held the vast universe, needed to be held by hands, the one who made all things, yet took upon flesh in union with his divinity (hypostatic union), this is great indeed to those who understood it. (The un-regenerate will not understand, but the called-out ones, you, and I).

- Paul was not only mentioning his incarnation, but to the whole of his divine manifestation in flesh for all the days of his life, 32 years, and a half (He never ceased to exist God). God who worked miracles, yet he suffered. He was the son of the Highest, yet he became the Man of sorrow and suffering and was afflicted with grief. He cared for all men, healed their diseases and sickness, but none cared for him nor cared to know him, he was despised and rejected of man.
- It is such a mystery that surpasses human understanding, and even in our honest attempt to explain the union of his divinity and humanity we fail to do justice and our inability to comprehend the fullness of his manifestation must result in only one expression; to humble ourselves and pledge our allegiance to him, in all obedience, completely and joyfully. It is enough for us to know "the Word became flesh", his incarnation is a glorious fact, and that God was manifest in the flesh of Jesus Christ the incarnate Word.

**Vindicated (justified) by the Spirit** – From before the foundation of the earth was laid, we know The Holy Spirit God (The Third Person in the Trinity) has been activity involved in the plan of salvation. All through the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit had been given prophetic utterances to his people of the Messiah to come. When the fullness of time has come, the Spirit sends forth the word to Mary and the power of the Most High overshadows and brings forth Son of God into the World. When Herod thought to have been deceived by the wise men, when he orders to kill the male children under 2 years old, the Holy Spirit guides Joseph and Mary to Egypt and keeps them there until the time comes for them to come back. We see the Holy Spirit in the form of Dove comes down from heaven after Jesus took baptism, and finally we see Jesus submits his Spirit unto the Father on the cross and every step of Jesus' life has been justified by the Spirit.

**Seen by the angels** – Jesus was seen by the angels at his birth, angels appear to the shepherds and proclaim to them the birth of the Savior in David’s city of Bethlehem, while they themselves looked with awe and wonder. Reminds the Christmas carol – ‘Christ the highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord; late in time behold he come; offspring of the virgin’s womb; veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the Incarnate Deity; pleased with us in flesh to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel; Hark the Herald Angels sing; Glory to the newborn king. (In the assembly of believers, the faithful called-out by God, 1 Peter 1:12 - we read “*Concerning this salvation ... things into which angels long to look*”).

**Proclaimed among the nations** – The result of Christ’s life and ministry – his incarnation, his public ministry and death on the cross and his resurrection and his ascension, resulted in proclamation of his great name among the nations, that is, it has been preached specifically to the gentiles and, no other name is worthy of proclamation among the nations, but the name of Jesus Christ through whom is Salvation.

**Believed on in the world** – This preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ has been effectively received (upon proclamation) and believed on in the world, in leading the sinners to repent of their sin and seek forgiveness and Salvation and eternal life. The message of the gospel brought many sons unto glory, to the praise of his glorious name. Men from across the world, from different walks of life, countries, and from all around the world, includes all ethnicities, all nations, all castes and creeds have been welcomed into one family in Christ.

**Taken up in glory** – Jesus’ ascension into heaven after his work on earth is done, is referred to be taken up in glory. That dawns the active work of The Holy Spirit whom God sent to dwell within every believer who has truly repented of sin and is forgiven. The transformative work of the Indwelling Spirit continues until the day of his coming.

*Colossians 1* – “*The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints*” – 26.

Having been the blessed recipients of the revealed mystery of Godliness, in the person and work of Christ, and Him being our Lord and Savior, as being welcomed to dwell in the household of God, and blessed to read and hear his word, sing his word, teach, and preach his word,

- How is your conduct being shaped/fashioned/renewed? – above reproach? godly?
- And whom do you continue to profess through your lifestyle? - At home, at work, in your community and in the God’s church?
- Are you being obedient to The Holy Spirit, in the light of The Word?

*Deuteronomy 29* – After Moses reminded all that the Lord has done for them, Israel renews their covenant with God, besides their covenant with God in Horeb, by saying, “*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law*” – 29.

What would be your renewed covenant with God in the light of the passage we have been studying through 1 Timothy?

May we re-dedicate ourselves, to follow Christ, our Lord, conducting ourselves as we ought to in our homes and in the house of God, as instructed in his word, with reverence and obedience yet being joyful, so we profess with our lives, to the world, the wondrous mystery of godliness, that has been revealed to us, to the praise of his glorious name alone. Amen!



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**Discipleship Questions**

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**SERMON TITLE:** The Living God's Church – Conduct and Confession – 1 Timothy 3:14-16 ESV

**HEAD:** These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. In the light of Sunday's sermon, what is "the church of The Living God"? – *Ephesians 2:19-22, 5:21-32, 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Corinthians 1:2, Acts 15:14.*

**HEART:** These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. What does Paul mean by calling 'the church' the pillar and the support (basement) of the Truth? – *1 Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 2:20.*
3. What are the 6 parts of the Hymn? What do they refer to? – *1 Timothy 3:16.*
4. What is God convicting you of and to believe in the light of this passage?

**HANDS/HABITS:** These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

5. For personal reflection (feel free to share): How can churches and individual Christians and Christian families fulfil God's call to be the pillar and the support of the Truth? What are some elements/areas that you can think of?
  - a. *2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 4:4*
  - b. *2 Timothy 2:15, Acts 17:11, Matthew 5:19*
  - c. *James 1:22, 1 Timothy 4:16*
  - d. *Matthew 28:19-20*