**God’s Design for the Church (1 Timothy)**

**The Household of God (1 Timothy 3:14-16)**

**Recap**

* **Finish Chapter 1**
* **Finish Chapter 2**
* **The Essential Qualities of Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9)**
* **Servants: Official or Otherwise (1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7)**
  + **Faith Servants always seek the interests of others before their own.**
  + **Faithful Servants willingly perform menial or despised tasks.**
  + **Faithful Servants are willing to serve in secret without applause.**
  + **Faithful Servants know and use their Gifts.**
* **1 Timothy 3:14-16**
* **The Central Focus for this Letter.**
* **Today let us look of how the Household of God (The Church) should function and its responsibility.**

1. **The Household of God should function as God’s Family.**
   1. **How should we apply the fact that we are God’s Family? (Romans 8:29)**
      1. **Because the church is God’s family, we should show familial love for one another.**
      2. **Because the church is God’s family, we should prioritize one another (Galatians 6:10)**
      3. **Because the church is God’s family, we gain closer fellowship by knowing God more (1 John 1:3)**
   2. **How have you experienced your horizontal relationships reflecting your vertical relationship and vice versa. Are there any relationship God is calling you to make right so you can be closer to him?**
2. **The Household of God should function as the Assembly of the Living God.**
   1. **What Applications can we take from the fact that believers are the assembly of the living God?**
      1. **Being the assembly of the living God, reminds us that God meets with the church in a unique way when believers gather (Matthew 18:20 and 1 Corinthians 3:16)**
      2. **Being the assembly of the living God reminds us of our calling to be holy.**
      3. **Being the assembly of the living God, reminds us of our need to constantly avail ourselves of corporate worship (Hebrews 10:24-25).**
   2. **What are your thoughts and feelings about the reality of the living God being among us in corporate worship? How would this affect individual believers if they really had a concept of this?**
3. **The Church Should Function as the Pillar and Foundation of Truth.**
   1. **What does Paul mean by calling the church the pillar of truth? Pillars served three purposes.**
      1. **They supported statues and roofs.**
      2. **They thrusted them high so all could see.**
      3. **They were set up in marketplaces so notices could be placed on them.**
   2. **What does Paul mean by calling the church the foundation of the truth? Foundations hold buildings firm, so they do not collapse. The Church holds the truth firmly, keeping it from decay or being lost.**
   3. **How can churches and individual Christians fulfill God’s call to be the pillar and foundation of the truth.**
      1. **Churches and individual Christians must believe God’s Word. (Matthew 4:4 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
      2. **Churches and individual Christians must Study the Word (2 Timothy 2:15)**
      3. **Churches and individual Christians must live the Word (James 1:22)**
      4. **Churches and individual Christians teach truth (Matthew 28:19-20)**
   4. **What are the six parts of the hymn and what do they refer to?**
      1. **He appeared in the flesh refers to Christ’s reincarnation.**
      2. **He was vindicated by the Spirit refers to how the Holy Spirit declared him righteous throughout his life.**
      3. **He was seen by angels refers to their special interest and ministry to Christ throughout his life.**
      4. **He was preached among the nations to the apostolic and missionary ministry right after his ascension.**
      5. **He was believed on in the world refers to his acceptance.**
      6. **He was taken up to glory seems to refer to the ascension, as he ascended to the right hand of the father.**
   5. **In what ways is truth being attacked by governments and education systems throughout the world? How can the church remain faithful in cultures who hate truth? In what specific ways is God challenging you to stand firm as a pillar and foundation to the truth?**

**Conclusion:**

* **Are you helping the church to fulfill its mission of being the Household of God?**
* **Do you treat the members of the church as family?**
* **Do you still have a sense of reverence for God’s presence when gathering with the church?**
* **Are you striving to hold firm to the truth and publish it to all who will listen?**