

Life In Community
An Ordered Community, Part 4
The Place of Proper Conduct and Sound Confession
1 Timothy 3:14-16

- I. Paul's Purpose and Hope (14)
 - A. To give instructions in proper Christian conduct
 - B. To express a common confession
 - C. To declare his desire to come to Timothy and the Ephesian church
- II. Proper Christian Conduct: Why Does It Matter? (15)
 - A. Paul does not name the conduct here
 - 1. What has gone before
 - 2. What is coming after
 - B. Why is this important? The Nature of the Church
 - 1. Household of God (closely related to "house of the Lord" language from the Old Testament)
 - 2. Pillar and support of the truth
 - a. Not that you cannot know truth without the church
 - b. Yet, you will not know truth as you ought by yourself
 - 3. The church is not the source or primary foundation of the truth – it is however a primary support structure of the truth in a believer's life
- III. Sound Confession (16)
 - A. Jesus – the mystery of godliness
 - B. To properly affirm the Christian faith in community, we must affirm:

- 1. The Incarnation – “revealed in the flesh”
- 2. Jesus' moral righteousness – “vindicated by the Spirit”
- 3. Jesus' spiritual domain/authority – “seen by the angels”
- 4. The prominence and power of His good news – “proclaimed among the nations/believed on in the world”
- 5. His present and future promise of final redemption – “taken up in glory”