

## INTRODUCTION

As those who pray to God our Father in heaven, we pray that His will would be done on earth as it is in heaven, that we would be helped to do what He has commanded, what is loving toward Him and toward other people, what things are good and acceptable in His sight.

As the disciples of Jesus Christ, we are profoundly moved whenever we consider how He took the blows, the thorns, the whip, the nails, and the spear for us, that by His blood shed on the cross, we are cleansed from our sins. When we think of what He has done for us, in love and gratitude we long to show our love by doing whatever He has commanded us to do.

As those who are born again on the inside by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, we now love what is right and hate what is wrong. We love to be instructed in what is right and wrong by all the scriptures, which the Holy Spirit has inspired men to write.

We love to learn and do what is right in the family...

We love to learn and do what is right in the workplace...

Colossians 3:22-24 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. (23) And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

We love to learn and do what is right in the civil society...

We also love to learn and do what is right in the house of God, which is the church. But we have a number of questions about that.

What am I supposed to do as a member of the church?

What are the pastors supposed to do?

Am I supposed to do what I did in my old church, where I used to go?

Are there rules here I don't know about?

Beginning today, we are going to go looking in the scriptures to learn what our Lord Jesus would have us do in the church. I plan for us to study together through the book of 1 Timothy. Today, in introduction, I am not pointing you to chapter 1 verse 1, but to chapter 3 verses 14-15, where there is a summary statement, and we'll go from there.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 3:14-15

## BODY

Paul went all over his part of the world preaching...

He assigned faithful men to work with the churches in his absence.

When Paul needed to leave the city of Ephesus to go elsewhere, he left Timothy to oversee the church in Ephesus in his absence.

Most directly applicable to Timothy himself, to whom it was written originally.

Applicable to the church as a whole, and to each individual, in ways I will mention a little later

-If this is how Timothy is to conduct himself as one overseeing us, we can see in that how we are to conduct ourselves

1 Timothy 3:14-15 These things I write to you ... so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God...

There is a way you are to conduct yourself in the house of God.

Not just any way will do.

It is not left up to you or to me to determine how we are to conduct ourselves.

But the Lord Jesus has told us through His apostle.

Chapter 1 - Maintain purity of doctrine.

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

Chapter 2 - Lead in prayer.

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

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No wonder that these are the first two things.

Remember what Samuel said.

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

Remember what the twelve apostles said to the church in Jerusalem

Acts 6:2-4 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. (3) Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; (4) but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Those are the two primary things.

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Chapter 3 - Appoint only qualified officers.

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then **must be blameless**, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise deacons *must be* **reverent (KJV grave)**, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

Chapter 4 - Guard the church against apostasy

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Chapter 5 - Take care of those in the church who need special treatment; or, deal well with every class of person in the church

1 Timothy 5:3 Honor widows who are really widows.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. (18) For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN," and, "THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS WAGES."

Chapter 6 - Keep up the ministry until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back

1 Timothy 6:13-14 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, (14) that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

## APPLICATION

Most directly applicable to the church's pastors. If this is how a pastor is to conduct himself in the house of God, then

1. this is how I must conduct myself and how Brother Dale must conduct himself

Applicable also to any men and boys who aspire to be church pastors. If this is how a pastor is to conduct himself in the house of God, then

1. this is how I must learn to conduct myself
2. this is how I must discipline myself to be
3. this is how I must train my own household

Applicable to the church as a whole, and to each individual; in several ways: If this is how a pastor is to conduct himself in the house of God, then

1. this letter deserves a place in my conscience above any non-biblical source of information
  - a. what occurs to me naturally
  - b. previous church experience
    - i. which may well be according to this, which is great
    - ii. which may well not be according to this
2. this is what I am to pray for and be supportive of in our current pastors and future pastors
  - a. to whatever degree it is already like this
  - b. to whatever degree it is not already like this
3. this is what I am to be satisfied with in our church's pastors, now and in the future
4. this is what I am to look for and approve of and choose in any future opportunities to help choose pastors
5. this is what I am to accept as my pastors oversee my soul
6. the things my pastor is told to reject and avoid and rebuke, I must reject
7. the things my pastor is told to strive for and hold to, I must strive for and hold to

## CONCLUSION

Let us study through this letter together. Let us learn together, and be reminded, of how we are to conduct ourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God.



Call to Worship: Psalm 28:7

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 12:20-24

Sermon: "How You Ought to Conduct Yourself in the Church" 1 Timothy 3:14-15

Benediction: Psalm 28:8-9

G 140 See, What A Morning, Anna Piano, Camille flute

T 739 Psalm 28, Camille Piano, Anna Clarinet or sing

G 230 O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer, Anna Piano, Camille ukelele

G 222 Living Hope, Anna piano, Camille sing

Let me pose some questions that I know at least some of you have. You can  
What am I supposed to do in the church? Of course I don't mean the church building, except just  
incidentally. But as a worshiper of God through Jesus Christ, as a Christian, as a member of the body  
of Christ, an adopted child in God's great household, how do you know what to do and what not to do  
in God's church? Is it okay to pretty much do whatever you want? Do the rules and ideas I learned at  
my old church apply here in this one?