

Household Of God

7-24-22

1 Timothy 3:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ 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.

We see a tremendous concern about the behavior in God's household. The metaphor household rightly represents "family," which naturally would recognize God as Father and believers as brothers and sisters. Using terms household and church, the two concerns are over behavior among believers, and the collective whole, the church. The household of God, the church of the living God is entrusted to uphold and proclaim the truth of God. The truth itself is at stake. It is crucial that believers know how to behave, because they make up the corporate church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth. Plainly put, the church has been entrusted to uphold the truth and keep it safe.

Church universal but Scripture is also addressing the local Household of God, like BCC.

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV) NO/OH

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The household of God, the church, the gathering place is the place where truth resides! This is where you find truth proclaimed. As the Household of God, we, BCC, understand and confess truth, the mystery of godliness.

1 Timothy 3:16a (ESV)

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

This word “Confess” is found only here in the NT. It is also translated “by common agreement”. Thus, this mystery of godliness is “by common agreement” is revealed in the rest of the verse. The first primary point of this common agreement concerning the mystery of godliness is the fact of incarnation; God became flesh. Therefore, in the household of God, we know that the mystery of godliness starts with Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:16b (ESV)

He (Jesus) was manifested in the flesh!

The eternal preexisting Son of God became visible as a physical man. This is the first point of the foundational truth of the household of God. This is our starting point in any discussion, argument, or debate.

In the household of God, we know the mystery of godliness is that Jesus was vindicated by the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 3:16c (ESV)

Vindicated by the Spirit!

Jesus' profound claims were vindicated through His miracles and resurrection. Christ's miracles, climaxing in his resurrection, were demonstrations of his deity, sure evidence that HE was the sinless Son of God. Our personal receiving of the Holy Spirit at salvation continues to confirm Jesus being vindicated by the Spirit. Our testimony.

In the household of God, we know the mystery of godliness because even the angels stooped over to observe Jesus' earthly ministry.

**1 Timothy 3:16d (ESV)
Seen by angels!**

Many people are interested in angels. However, the angels are interested in Jesus. The Scriptures reveal that the angels have intense interest in human salvation.

**1 Peter 1:12 (ESV)
(The good news was preached) things into which angels long to look.**

Even the angels long to look into these things. The verb *parakypō* (NIV, "long to look") means "to stoop over to look." It implies willingness to exert or inconvenience oneself to obtain a better perspective. Here the present tense gives the continuous aspect desiring to watch and see. The Bible says nothing about salvation for angels. On the contrary, the angels learn about it from the church.

In the household of God, we know the mystery of godliness requires that Jesus be preached throughout the world.

1 Timothy 3:16e (ESV)

Proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world!

Jesus “was believed on in the world” (*kosmos*). The true preaching of Christ produces faith in him. This preaching among the Gentiles took place, of course, after Christ’s death. It will be noted that what was preached was not a theory, but a Person. Paul declared, “We preach Christ”.

In the household of God, we know the mystery of godliness recognizes that Jesus taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 3:16f (ESV)

Taken up in glory.

This was the climax of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Preaching Christ means preaching his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. It is very clear that the earliest preaching declared Jesus to be alive. When Paul was brought before pagan leaders, he declared Jesus alive. Pagans describing their meeting with Paul said:

Acts 25:19 (ESV)

They disputed about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.

The Household of God upholds and protects the truth. Paul closes out this letter to Timothy with an empathic plea to the church!

1 Timothy 4:10 (ESV)

For to this end, we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

The truth, the message of the household of God, church summarized:

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.