

# **In The Church**

**8-13-17**

1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

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 (foundation) of the truth.

The church is a lighthouse of truth in a very dark world. We are able to see God carry out HIS design in the church. This is a divine privilege of God's called out people, which is evident throughout Scripture.

Psalms 147:19-20 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> God has revealed his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> God has done this for no other nation;  
they do not know his laws.

Praise the LORD.

God's design is manifest in HIS called out people as seen in OT Israel and NT church. God's design should thrive in the church. We have a relationship with Christ, but there is also truth, structure, and order. In the church, the created design is lived out.

#1 Natural Design

Man and Woman

Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

## #2 Natural Design Marriage

Genesis 2:24 (ESV)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Since God created us, we will only experience complete fulfillment through embracing God's design. This is present in every human heart.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV)

God has put eternity into man's heart.

Man has fallen from God's design. Therefore, it is God's desire to restore man to the original design.

## #3 Natural Design Restoration in God's Kingdom

Colossians 1:13–14 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> He has **delivered us** from the domain of darkness and **transferred us** to the kingdom of his beloved Son,  
<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Restoration comes from a transformed heart!**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

We are born again, transformed through the Holy Spirit. We become new creations. This is how each person will experience the fullness of his or her divine design.

Now as new creations in the church (making up the church), **we have something better to offer our children.** They need a relationship with Christ, **but they also need to know the truth of their design.** This provides them the secure foundation on which they may develop as God designed them.

**Children are made to thrive within God's design.**

Unfortunately children are being faced with a multiple of issues their developing minds cannot fully process. For instance, we have a young girl 11 or 12 going through puberty. It could easily be a young boy. She is confused about her identity. The new world order would give her multiple choices and call it freedom.





**Is she free?** She will be more confused leading to more uncertainties with life dominating destructive patterns awaiting her? **Christian truth, foundations, and structures set children free to securely thrive in their divine design.** Children are created by God and designed for a special purpose. **They are to be nurtured by loving adults in God's design.** The family is the core unit for nurturing. **However, the church** should be a safe structure for the most impressionable in the family of God to be nurtured.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

**Under loving supervision, children will embrace and grow within their natural God given design.**

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Jesus understands and says, “Bring the children to ME.”

Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

**Adults are to give sacrificial time to children and bring into the knowledge of Christ nurturing them to fully experience the design God has for them. God will severely bring judgment on all those who lead children astray.**

Matthew 18:5–6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup> **but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin**, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

All believers are to live out our Christian life in this dark world. We as adults understand we are the light of the world and boldly proclaim Jesus. **However, we cannot make the world behave like Christians. But in the church, our behavior corporately manifests God's design.** God loves the world and gave HIS son to die for all our sins so we may have a relationship with God AND FULFILL OUR DESIGN.

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.

**Prophetic Team  
Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current  
situation or impact the future.**