

Theme: Before we can live a godly life we need to see "godliness." We need to know who we are before we can pursue what we are called to be.

Background: A quick review as we return to 1 Timothy.

Introduction: The world doesn't think much of the church. That's too bad. Many Christians don't think much of the church. That's very bad!

## I. The Position of the Church

### A. God's Family (God's household)

1. Implies intimate relationship - With the church (corporate), not just the individual
2. Implies submission to His authority
  - a. Children to parents
  - b. Wives to husbands
  - c. Church to its Lord

### B. God's Dwelling

1. In the Old Testament
  - a. The house of God (Genesis 28:16, 17)
  - b. God tabernacles with His people (Exodus 25:8)
  - c. The Temple (1 Kings 6:13)
2. In the New Testament
  - a. What was veiled is revealed
  - b. God dwells in his people (2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:22)

## II. The Purpose of the Church

### A. Hold up the Truth

1. Pillar
  - a. We support it; we don't define it.
  - b. We uphold the wisdom of God, not men
2. Buttress - To make it steadfast, firm

### B. Hold out the Truth - For the world to see, hear, and believe

## III. The Power of the Church

### A. The Mystery of Godliness

1. Mystery?
  - a. Not something unsolved
  - b. What was hidden but is now revealed!
2. Godliness (9 times in 1 Timothy)
  - a. Reverence toward God
  - b. God-centeredness, foremost in our life

### B. Revealed in Christ

1. "Manifested in the flesh" - The Incarnation
2. Vindicated by the Spirit
  - a. Affirming Jesus Christ as God's Son
  - b. At His baptism (Matthew 3:16, 17)
  - c. In His ministry
  - d. In the Resurrection! (Romans 1:4; 8:11)
3. Seen by the angels
  - a. Angelic witnesses

- b. Or Apostolic messengers?
  - 1) Jesus appeared to them (1 Corinthians 15:5-7)
  - 2) Their vital eyewitness testimony
- 4. Proclaimed among the nations - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to the ends of the earth
- 5. Believed on in the world - It is happening now
- 6. Taken up in Glory!
  - a. It seems to be out of order (taken chronologically) - He ascended, then the gospel went forth.
  - b. He is the Glorified Christ!
    - 1) At the Father's right hand
    - 2) Ruling in power and glory

#### IV. The Passion of the Church

- A. To be who we are in Christ
- B. To know the truth and hold it up
- C. To know the mystery of godliness that shapes our life