

A Church on Mission

1 Timothy 3:14–16 (ESV)

¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that,

¹⁵if 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 of the truth.

¹⁶Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

- Paul had been training Timothy as a pastor by going over some principles from God.
- There is a way for churches to operate in order for it to be the pillar and foundation of truth.
- It is an honor to be in a place that has the responsibility of the **mission of the gospel to the world!**
- Do you know what resources God has given us to live a Christian life? Prayer, Word of God, The Holy Spirit, Church! (Many claim to be all in on 3, but the fourth...)
- It is the embassy for the mission of the advancement of the gospel and the place for discipleship to take root!

Ephesians 4:16 (ESV)

¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- It may be said as a joke, but it is no laughing matter to say that it is not a “museum” that Christ built, but to be a place of **salvation, hope, transformation and refuge from a fallen world.**
 - It is an alive community of saints committed to the purpose of making disciples and carrying forth the mission of the Great Commission.
 - It is something that must be **minimalized to avoid the force of the mission.**
1. Christ introduced it in Matthew 16:18- (“I will build it and the gates of hell won’t stand against it!”)
 - a.) It didn’t exist beforehand! (Family of God are the saved.) OT saints too. (We call ourselves a church family.) (Family-saved, kingdom-all saints live within, church-added.)

Romans 4:3 (ESV) One way into family/salvation. One way into church/added (both are saved!)

³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

- b.) To take away the significance of being added to a local, visible church **takes away the responsibility of being added for a purpose!** (Avoidance of DEWPF)
- 2. Ecclesia- “called out” (Local, autonomous, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, certain directives of operation.)

1 Corinthians 12:27–28 (ESV)

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

- a.) The reason Paul is stressing this is 1.) They are all **important to the mission** and 2.) They were to **complement each other in unity**. (Unity is not through minimal participation, thus no problems, but serving together.)
- b.) This cannot occur universally, it occurs locally!
- c.) Another demonstration of that fact is Acts 20:28.

Acts 20:28 (ESV)

²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- d.) A pastor is to endeavor to keep his life in order spiritually and to guide the ones in a church to do the same. (How does that occur in “**we are all the church**” scenario? That also doesn’t occur when a **pastor doesn’t even know the people that he serves!**)
 - Before this verse Paul says that he did not shirk the responsibility to teach properly (as the elders were to do) and he says after, that wolves will come into the midst of the church to try and destroy it!! (Trying to be emotional leaders, and false doctrine leaders, both.)
 - Today, many do not want to have a pastor, or discount the responsibility, but we are **told that He is accountable to God for this!** (Sobering.)
- e.) In Ephesians 5:23, **Christ is the head of the church**- This is a generic use of the word church, it doesn’t mean it is not local. Otherwise, the rest of that verse would mean a husband and wife are universal as well!

It is a local, autonomous body. (Someday in heaven, we will all be together!)

When the church was born, it spread to many different localities, and they were autonomous, yet likeminded in doctrine. (It is not biblical to go back to one entity in manifestation.) **That occurs through the family of God, and the Kingdom, which are manifestations of believers in total.**

- Once again, as a SBC church, it simply means that is how we co-operate in a mission plan, we are not controlled by. (That makes us independent!)
- Also, **we weren't true, then false for 100's of years, and then broke away to truth again!** (That is some groups claim, not ours!) Always **local, autonomous, always saved by grace through faith, then baptized, added to a church to carry out discipleship mission of the true gospel of Jesus Christ!** (Through time born from other like-minded bodies.)

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- **We are ambassadors.** (With power to do the job!)

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- **We are an embassy for truth in an untruthful world.** 1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵if 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 of the truth.

- **We are to be the center for discipleship.** Ephesians 4:12 (ESV)

¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:13–14 (ESV)

¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

- **We are to be a place for laborers.** Matthew 9:37–38 (ESV)

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Acts 2:42 (ESV)

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 5:42 (ESV)

⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV)

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV)

²⁰**Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,**

²¹**to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**