

## Study Guide

### Ecclesia | Part 2

<sup>15</sup>I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

<sup>16</sup>By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

1 Timothy 3:15-16

#### **Big Idea: We exist to uphold truth**

1. Share some of your thoughts from the sermon.
2. According to verse 15, the church is the "pillar of truth". Today, there seems to be an attack on anyone who claims that there is absolute truth. How have you seen that to be true in our culture and places of work? Why do you think that truth is so much under fire? Do you think our culture lives by their feelings, more than by reason? Discuss.  
Why is Jesus' statement so offensive: "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me.*" John 14:6
3. Do you think that truth is vital to our existence? What truths do we depend on daily? How do we depend on truth for life, conduct and spiritual development? How can knowing truth be freeing for us? ("*...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*" John 8:32).
4. According to 1 Tim. 3:15 (above), our Christian conduct has a direct correlation to upholding the truth of the gospel. Share examples when you have seen someone claiming to be a Christian, do something that is damaging to the name of Christ. How can we have a better awareness of how our conduct affects our influence on others?
5. Read 1 Tim. 3:16. Share the tension between the "mystery" of God and what we can know of God. How can we live in such a way that we project the truths of God to others without coming off boastful or religious or narrow-minded?

#### **Application**

Take some time to pray together. Ask God to help us in our conduct to support the gospel message.

## Message Slides

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#### Key Passage: 1 Timothy 3:15-16

"I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

#### I. Truth is under Fire!

##### *Pluralism & Relativism*

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**Rom. 1:18-19** "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men **who suppress the truth**. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them."

#### II. Truth is Vital to our Existence!

*For life, conduct and personal development*

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#### III. Truth is validated by Christian Behaviors (1 Tim. 3:15)

"I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."

*Image of the Temple of Diana*

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#### IV. This we Know 1 Tim. 3:16

"By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

**Nathaneal**



John 1:45 "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote..."

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