

THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH’S CHARACTER – 1 TIMOTHY 3:15b

Every human being is unique, fashioned by God to accomplish special and particular _____. Sadly, most people personally reject Christ never fulfilling this plan, stumbling through life purposeless. Churches can be just the same having a name and title defining them as such, but compared to what the Bible says are often far from realizing the Lord’s intent. The only way for people and churches to be all they were made to be is through _____ obedience to the words of God—counting on each other to submit. Success is dependent on not only each Christian living godly but their church fulfilling its scriptural _____. Today’s text reveals the importance of our _____ as a corporate assembly, giving us a collective description of what we are and who we represent.

1. Our identity and character as a local church – 1 Timothy 3:15b

a. The _____ of God – verse 15; Heb. 10:21; 1 Peter 4:17

- What the church is not:

The church is not a building

The church is not simply somewhere we go

The church is not every believer and every church on earth combined or described as _____ church – Acts 9:31; 1 Cor. 14:33; 2 Cor. 8:23; Gal. 1:2; Rev. 3:22

- What the church is:

The church is the _____ described or referred to as a local body of believers (I.E. The FBCJ)

The church is the actual assembly of members meeting together (I.E. all present and accounted for...)

The church is the body of Christ consisting of every member in particular, unified and working together on a local level – 1 Cor. 12:27

- The First Baptist Church of Jackson is the *house of God* whether assembled or scattered

Every individual born-again member is the place where God dwells – 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Peter 2:5

Our local church is the habitation of God, and we are his household – Eph. 2:19-22

- Because God actually dwells in our midst, we should...

Behave godly, _____, and righteously

Communicate courteously to everyone present

Accommodate all guests causing them to feel welcome

Sing out loud, making a joyful noise to the Lord—we shout AMEN when we sing or hear truth

Set a high priority on attendance, considering all assemblies and activities

Keep the building, property, and respective areas clean and orderly

Have a good countenance and smile—don’t look ticked off or puked out

Be focused and prepared before entering, ready to meet with God

Administrate things with great care, paying close attention to order and logic
Always pray—talk to God privately and publicly
Always trust God believing the scriptures are true
Serve God heartily and don't allow ourselves to get weary of well-doing
Seek to invite guests so they can meet God and his people who are indwelt by his Spirit
Do every thing better for God, giving him our very best

b. The church of the _____ God

- God the Father is alive
- God the Son arose from the dead and is seated alive at the Father's right hand
- God the Holy Spirit is alive and always present and is moving

c. The pillar and ground of the _____

- Pillar and ground

This is architectural and structural engineering terminology

A pillar is a stand-alone object of great strength designed to hold up and support an over-arching bridgework or crown of a larger structure by connecting it to and embedding it in the earth so it is unmoveable, resisting conflicting forces coming against it... a pillar is an object of great compression made to endure heavy weight; its success is only as strong as the foundation upon which it is based

- Truth – Jo. 14:6; 17:17; 2 Peter 1:16-21

The Lord Jesus Christ himself is truth

Everything that is righteous and true – all things that are just plain true

The Holy Scriptures—the word and words of God preserved without provable error or contradiction...

The agent that brings forth new life through salvation

The final authority for life and godliness

Profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness

Inspired instructions for growth, maturity, and service

Food for a hungry soul (milk, bread, honey, meat)

Water for a thirsty soul

Comfort, encouragement, and peace

A more sure word than the audible voice of God

- Our church must always stay focused on the most important _____ – verse 16
The fact that Jesus Christ is God...
That he lived as a perfect man and had a ministry on earth that was also seen from heaven
And brought the gospel of salvation to _____ that believe

2. We depend on each other to succeed for Christ

a. Personally as individual believers

- When we manifest these characteristics, our church will be more apt to succeed

b. Corporately as the _____ of Christ – our local church family

- When our church manifests these characteristics, each believer will be more apt to succeed

c. We need each other to be and represent these identifiers:

- 1- The house of God
- 2- The church of the living God
- 3- The pillar and ground of the truth