

1 Timothy
The Challenge of Being the Church
1 Timothy 3:14-16 (page 830)

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What is the importance of the church?

The church has a vital role to play in the world because of:

- our identity (1 Tim 3:14-15a-b)
 - as God's family, we are to reflect Christ through our relationships (Eph 2:19-22; 3:14-15)
 - as God's assembly, we are to reflect Christ through His presence and power (Acts 14:15; 1 Thess 1:9; 2 Cor 4:4-7; Eph 3:17-21)
- our mission (1 Tim 3:15c-16)
 - as God's church we are to be custodians of the truth (1 Tim 3:15c; 1 Pet 2:4-10; 2 Cor 4:1-6; Phil 1:7)
 - as God's church we are to declare that truth and make Jesus Christ known to the world (1 Tim 3:16)

The church is important because it reveals Christ, even as Christ reveals God.

Taking it home.....

Verse 15 uses three metaphors to help understand the significance of the church. Describe each one. How are they significant to your own faith? What do they convey about the role of the church in the world? What do they convey about your responsibility? _____

How should the church go about supporting and upholding the truth? What is truth? How do you pursue the truth? _____

How important is the connection between what you do and what you believe? Personally? As the church? _____

Read v 16...list each of the six phrases on a piece of paper.

Identify the verbs in each phrase. Do a study of each phrase and identify several verses that speak to that phrase. Compile them and then, in your own words, write out what is being said and see if that helps you convey the gospel more effectively to someone. _____
