

An Intimate Household – 1 Timothy 3:14-15

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Introduction

1. What is the nature of the church? How does God view the church?
2. What has God taught us concerning the fellowship He wants His members to experience in His church? As we begin let's consider some contrasting views of the church...

I. Different Views Of The Church

- a. How Modern Society Tends To View The Church
 - i. First, as an institution or organization that does charitable work
- b. Jesus Viewed The Church Differently
 - i. Matthew 12:46-50 – as a family who does God's will
 - ii. John 2:16 – God was His Father
 - iii. Matthew 6:9 – We are to address God as our Father
 - iv. 1 John 1:3-4 – John speaks of God as our Father
 - v. 1 Peter 2:17 – Peter said we are a brotherhood
 - vi. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 – Paul said we are God's children
- c. The Church Is The Household of God – 1 Timothy 3:14-15
 - i. Ephesians 2:19-22 – We are God's household because of Jesus
 - ii. With this view in mind how do we as Christians promote the intimate family relationship that is to be found in God's church?

II. How Family Intimacy Is To Permeate Church Life

- a. In Our Relationship Together
 - i. Matthew 18:1-4 – Not striving for dominance but in humility submitting to one another
 - ii. Ephesians 5:18-21 – Be subject to one another
 - iii. Philippians 2:1-4 – Look out for one another working to have same purpose
 - iv. Philippians 2:14-16 – Working together as lights to the world for Jesus
 - v. Colossians 3:8-17 – Put on our new selves together (a life of love)
- b. In Our Concern For Each Other
 - i. Matthew 18:5-7 – Being concerned with protecting one another spiritually & physically
 - ii. Galatians 5:26-6:2 – Bear each other's burdens
 - iii. Matthew 18:10-14 – Keep each other from straying away from God
- c. In Forgiving Each Other
 - i. Matthew 18:21-22 – How many times do we forgive? Every time!
- d. In Our Service To One Another
 - i. Matthew 20:25-28 – We are called to follow Jesus as servants

How is your way of life fulfilling God's design for His church to be an intimate household? Our greatest fellowship is found in how we entered into the household of God (Galatians 3:26-27)!