

What is the Church?

1 Timothy 3:14,15

Introduction:

- The word, church, is used in a wide variety of ways in English.
 1. How many churches do we have in Caro?
 2. What would most people consider a church to be?
 3. Webster's dictionary gives _____ definitions!
- How does God define the word, church? - things to remember:
 1. All scripture is inspired by _____ (2 Tim 3:16)
 2. All of Paul's letters were considered s_____ by Peter (2 Pet 3:15,16)
 3. Therefore, 1 Tim 3:14,15 is God's answer.
- Ask yourself this question as we study this passage: *What part do I have in the church?*

The living God's p_____ of people

- Verse 15 states the church as belonging to the living God
 1. In Paul's day, gods were i_____ that could not speak nor hear.
 2. The one true God is l_____.
- The 1611 King James Version came about because King James wanted to unite Christians with _____ English translation, forcing them to discard all other English versions.
 1. A group of biblical scholars undertook this translation who were well-educated in a _____ Greek and Hebrew.
 2. The scholars were unsure how they should translate, ekklesia (the Greek word translated as church in today's translations).
 - a. Tyndale's translation read c_____.
 - b. The Geneva Bible read c_____.
 - c. The Bishop's Bible translated it both ways.
 3. King James ordered that the word, church, translate ekklesia. In the king's English, "church" referred to either a b_____ for Christian worship or a hierarchy of Christian government like the Church of England.
- The Greek word (ekklesia) literally means c_____ out ones
 1. Rom 9:24 – God calls certain people out of the w_____ of unbelievers.

2. 1 Cor 1:9 – God effectively brings them into a right relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 3. 1 Pet 2:9 – those called belong to the people of God.
- Have you been called out of the unbelieving world into a right relationship with Jesus? - if so, you are part of God's people!

The living God's people of dwelling

- Verse 15 has the term household of God (KJV – house of God)
1. What is the difference between the word house and household? House refers to a people of dwelling; household refers to the people living in the house.
 2. The Greek word can refer to either and may even refer to both.
 - a. Jesus called the temple in Jerusalem, _____ house. It was destroyed in 70 A.D. and never rebuilt.
 - b. Rev 21:3 pictures God's people in the new heaven and new earth as being His dwelling people.
 - c. Where is God's dwelling place today?
 - 1) Matt 18:20 – where at least two are gathered in Jesus's name (making it all about Him).
 - 2) 1 Cor 14:24,25 – Paul wanted the Corinthians to gather in Christ's name so that an unbeliever would say, *God is certainly among you.*
- When you come into this assembly, do you sense that God is among us?
1. If so, what gives you that sense?
 2. If not, what is your priority in coming into this assembly?
 3. The fact remains that as long as just two of us are gathered in his name, God is among us. Will you make this assembly all about Him?

The living God's people of truth

- Verse 15 reads, *the church of the living God which is the pillar and support of the truth.*
1. The first description (pillar) is a metaphor of a support post of a building holding up the top.
 2. The second description (support) is a word that refers to the state of standing firm to the point of being unshakeable.

3. Therefore the biblical church is one that holds up the truth and stands firm on the truth regardless of anyone or anything.
- Today's culture views truth as r_____ (in other words, what is truth for me may not be truth for you because there is no such thing as absolute truth).
 1. _____% of youth believe this.
 2. Over _____% of church-going adults believe this.
 3. Is it absolutely true that there is no such thing as absolute truth?
 - What is truth?
 1. Truth transcends culture and t_____ - it is relevant for every person in every age and in every culture.
 2. Jn 14:6 – Jesus said, *I am the way, the t_____, and the life...*
 3. Jn 17:17 – Jesus said that God's w_____ is truth.
 - a. Jesus proclaimed the Old Testament as God's word (Matt 5:6,17,18)
 - b. Jesus only spoke what the Father c_____ Him to speak (Jn 12:48,49).
 - c. The New Testament is Jesus's word preserved for us by His apostles and prophets (Jn 14:26).
 - It is essential that today's "churches" proclaim God's word as truth. It is the standard by which all is judged (see Mk 7).
 1. Judge all p_____ by God's word.
 2. Judge all t_____ by God's word.
 3. Judge all e_____ by God's word.

Conclusion:

- Our God is living
 1. He lives within believers - we are His p_____.
 2. He lives among believers - we are His dwelling p_____.
 3. He lives through believers – we are His p_____ of truth.
- What part do you have in the church of the living God?