

The Church – the Pillar and Ground of the Truth

1 Tim 3:15

Introduction:

A. Definitions:

1. “The church” – God’s called out people distributively and collectively.
2. “Pillar and Ground” – the support, not origin or determiner.
3. “The truth”
 - a. All spiritual truth considered as a unit – like the law (Jas. 2:10)
 - b. Other equivalent expressions: “The gospel,” “The doctrine,” “The word,” “The faith.”

B. In our role and pillar and ground of the truth, we have certain responsibilities:

Discussion:

I. We must *Know* the Truth (John 8:31, 32).

- A. As opposed to religious and philosophical error.
- B. The truth is found in the scriptures (John 16:13; 17:17; Acts 17:11)
- C. “Let God be true and every man a liar” (Rom 3:4)

II. We must *Love* the Truth (2 Thess. 2:9, 10)

- A. Enough to obey it.
 1. To be saved (1 Pet. 1:22)
 2. To stay saved (Gal. 3:1; 5:7; Rom. 2:8)
- B. Enough to hold on to it (Prov. 23:23)

III. We must *Speak* the Truth (Eph. 4:15)

- A. Speak rather than remaining silent (Acts 4:18-20)
 1. Speaking all the truth (Acts 20:20, 27)
 2. Go everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4)
- B. The Truth rather than speaking “perverse things” (Acts 20:30).

IV. We must *Defend* the Truth (Gal 2:5)

- A. Because of many false prophets/teachers (1 John 1:4; 2 Pet. 2:10)
- B. For the sake of teacher and those he influences (Gal. 2:13)

V. We must *Demonstrate* the Truth (Gal. 2:14).

- A. By walking in truth (3 John 4)
- B. By being examples (1 Tim. 4:12; Matt. 5:16)
- C. Individually and collectively.
 1. Show world what a Christian is to be like.
 2. Show world what the church is to be like.

Conclusion:

- A. Do you know the truth about Christ, his salvation and his church?
- B. Have you purified your souls in obeying the truth?
- C. Are you insuring your eternal salvation by walking in the truth?