Behaving in Church QSBC Jan. 7 PM 1 Timothy 3: 14-16

**Intro:** I want to speak about How we ought to behave in church.

**ILL** – earliest memory of church… basement with mom

**t/s** – text speak of the ***Ought*** Conduct of a local church.

When Judgment comes and the foundations crumble, it will not be because lost people acted like lost people; but because people in the church acted like Lost people!

**1 Timothy 3: 14-16**

**If we really understood Who we are as church, we would live the way we *Ought* to Live.**

**t/s** – When Paul raises the issue of how we ought to conduct ourselves, he does not give a list of rules; he provides three pictures of a local church.

**Live Like the Family of God.**

**Exp** – ***Household***, not House… Family not Building. We have a corporate identity. We have a Family Reputation!

**ILL** – My friend – good student, kind, funny, respectful…

Teachers treated him differently (sharp words, harsh discipline…)

His family was a bunch of Drunks, Fighters, Crooks….

**App** – As a family, we are judged together! (you impact me…)

Your way of life impacts your Father’s reputation!

(facebook posts… not thinking about me)

**Live Like God is Living in your Midst.**

***Church*** = *ecclesia* = an assembly duly summoned.

The people of God Called Out Together.

(To be called out is to be Called together!)Not institution

***Living God*** = OT description … not a lifeless Idol.

Present, powerful, pursuing His Purpose!

* Joshua, Crossing Jordan river on dry ground. (3:10)
* David, running toward goliath with sling (17:36)
* Darius, after casting Daniel into the Lion’s Den (6:26)

**ILL** – Neil Cole assembled list of actual church names.

Halfway Baptist Church; Little Hope Baptist Church;

Harmony Baptist… ½ mile away Harmony Baptist #2

***Church of the Living God!***

**App** – ***Caution*** – Terrible thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.

***Judgment begins in the household of God***.

***Confidence*** – Vitality, Cultural forms of Christianity will crumble; the Church of the living God will Stand.

**Live for the Sake of the Gospel.**

Exp – ***Pillar*** – an upright support; stable, strong, dependable.

***Support*** – Foundation or Bulwark… Bastion (Peterson)

More the idea of protector or ***defender***…

We ***Support*** and **Protect** the Truth of Scripture (generally).

The church must teach and preach the Bible.

Creation, Justice, Sexuality, Integrity, God work and way.

We Support and Protect the Truth of **the Gospel** of Jesus.

**Vs. 16** – Paul gets specific about the Truth by appealing to a hymn about Jesus… (Paul composed…Ephesus sang)

“***By common Confession***” = We all agree and sing

Poetic = parallelism; “th” sound repeated; rhythm Thus, not linear, not exhaustive… About Jesus.

“***Mystery of Godliness***” = Deep truth now revealed about God’s redemptive plan… gospel! Morality from Theology!

**His Earthly Ministry**: Incarnation, Resurrection; Ascension

**His Work today**: Proclamation; Reception; Glory/Reign

***“The Truth” = the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!***

**We Live for the Sake of the Gospel!**

We, as a church, exist to support and defend; to uphold and proclaim; the Good News of Jesus Christ. Ultimately, ***the Gospel is at Stake***!

**Conclusion/Application**

Questions forming as to How we will make this pastoral transition:

Who will preach? How will committee be formed? (Who?)

How Will We Behave in 2018? (Opportunity… Lord’s Work)

***Live like the Family of God.***

***Live like He is Alive in Your Midst.***

***Live for the Sake of the Gospel!***

Invitation

**Call to Prayer** == Grace to Walk in a manner Worthy of our Calling.