FIGHT FOR GODLINESS

A STUDY OF 1 TIMOTHY

THE CHURCH AMIDST APOSTASY

1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5

"The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."

BRENNAN MANNING

1 TIMOTHY 1:3-4 NIV

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may **command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer** [4] or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things **promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work**—which is by faith.

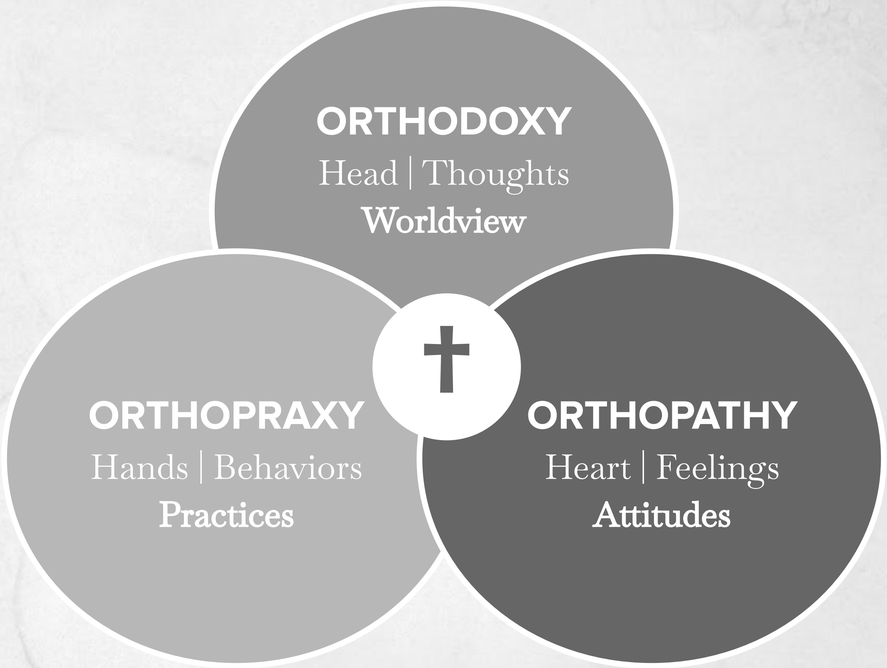
1 TIMOTHY 3:14-15 NIV

Although I hope to come to you soon, **I am writing you these instructions** so that, [15] if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to **conduct** themselves in **God's household**, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and foundation of the truth.**

Church Conduct and Doctrine

In a world of instability, the Church is to be a stabilizing presence of truth as a dwelling place for God.

What the church believes shapes how she lives.
How the church lives shapes how others see Christ.


ORTHODOXY
Head | Thoughts
Worldview
ORTHOPRAXY
Hands | Behaviors
Practices
ORTHOPATHY
Heart | Feelings
Attitudes

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 NIV

Beyond all question, **the mystery** from which **true godliness springs** is great:

He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels, was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Mystery of Godliness is a Person, not behavior.

The life and work of Jesus is the source of the life and work of the Church.

Christology of 1st Century Hymn

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1 TIMOTHY 4:1-2 NIV

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will **abandon the faith** and follow deceiving spirits and **things taught by demons**.
2 Such teachings come through **hypocritical liars**, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

The False Teachers

- Initiating a revolt
- Demonic in nature
- Founded on lies

JESUS

The Way, The Truth, The Life

JOHN 8:31-32 ESV

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and* ***the truth will set you free****."*

DEVIL

Father of Lies, The Deceiver, Death

JOHN 8:44 NIV

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for ***there is no truth in him.*** *When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

1 TIMOTHY 4:3-5 NIV

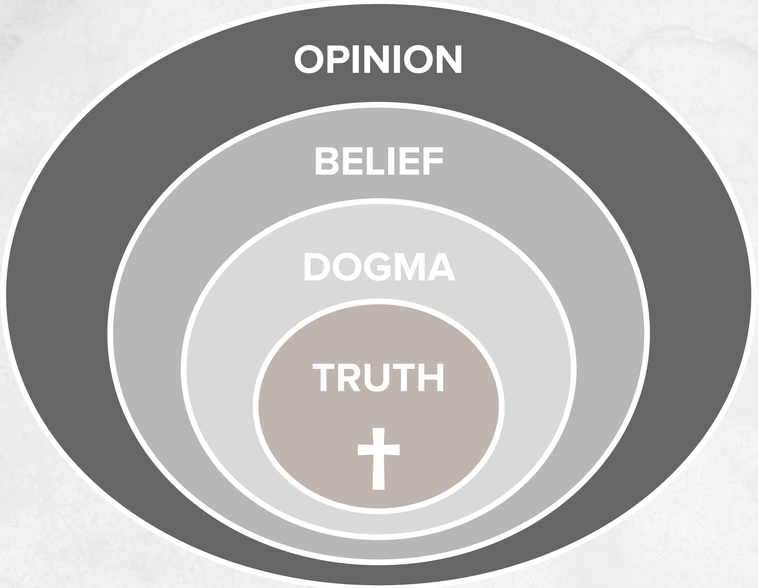
They **forbid people to marry** and **order them to abstain** from certain foods, **which God created** to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 **For everything God created is good**, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

False Teachers = False Gospel

Distorting who God is and what God does distorts who we are and what we do.

EPHESIANS 6:10-12 NIV

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [11] Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**



God's Household of Truth

"In essentials unity,
in non-essentials liberty,
in all things charity."

- Rupertus Meldenius

Personal

"I am…"
"My job will…"
"I can/cannot…"

Local

"Our family..."
"Our church..."
"He/She is..."

National

"Covid is…"
"Mask mandates are…"
"America is…"

Our War on Lies

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

John 17:17 ESV

Acknowledge your thoughts/feelings/circumstances:
"I think/feel like I am alone in this struggle."

Identify the lie/s you are believing:
"*God and Others do not see or just do not care about me."*

Seek Truth:
Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. *1 Peter 5:7*

Submit and Give Thanks:
"Lord, you are good. Thank you for caring. I bring you this struggle."

The Spiritual War for Your Mind

- Acknowledge your circumstances
- Identify the lie
- Seek truth
- Submit and give thanks

As God's dwelling place,
everything you believe and do
in this life matters.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven; he became incarnate
by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The
third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come.
Amen.

As God's dwelling place, everything you believe and do in this life matters.