

How To Behave In Church (Part 1)

1 Timothy

Introduction:

1. In the book of 1 Timothy, Paul is writing a letter to his son in the faith, Timothy. Timothy was a young pastor that needed the instruction and encouragement of Paul.
2. As the churches increased in number, questions of church order and soundness in the faith became important. Churches had to have guidance, and the book of 1 Timothy is written for this purpose.
3. A key passage is 1 Timothy 3:14-15. Paul is saying, “I’m hoping to come and see you real soon. But, in case I cannot, I’m writing these things so you and your church members know how to behave, and know what is expected.”
4. Some of this book is directed to Pastor Timothy. But other times Paul will say something like, “exhort therefore,” or, “charge them to do this or that.” These were things the people were to do.
5. We’re going to look at some of these and see how we should behave in church. As church members, what should we be doing?

First, every church member should be laboring in prayer. 2:1-2, 8

1. In verse 1, in four different ways Paul basically says one thing – PRAY!
 - “*supplications*” – petitions; special requests
 - “*prayers*” – communicating with God
 - “*intercessions*” – praying on behalf of someone else
 - “*giving of thanks*” – thanking and praising God for who He is and what He has done
2. Who should we pray for? Verse 2 teaches us to pray for those in authority – your leaders.
 - All church members should be praying for their political leaders, but certainly they should also be praying for their spiritual leaders at church. Hebrews 13:7
 - What better way to remember your spiritual leaders than in prayer!
3. What is the result when God’s people pray the way they should? Peace! vs. 2
 - Do you want a peaceful church? I sure do. It grieves my heart to be in a church full of friction, strife, contention, and bickering. This is not God’s plan. 1 Thessalonians 5:13; Philippians 1:27
4. When a church is full of strife and contention, rest assured that someone is failing in his or her duty to pray. It certainly is every Christian’s privilege and duty. vs. 8
5. I believe with all my heart that people who are not laboring in prayer for their church and leaders have no legitimate right to complain or gripe about anything. Why? Because they are out of the will of God, and their prayerlessness is contributing to the problem.

Second, every church member should be seeking to live a godly life. 4:7-11

1. Verse 11 says, “*These things command and teach.*” What “*things*” is he talking about? Let’s get the context by reading verses 7-8, right before this. Clearly, every believer in the local church should be seeking to live a godly life.
2. Notice a few principles that jump out at us:
 - A godly life takes consistent work (“*exercise thyself*”). vs. 7
 - Just as muscles aren’t built overnight, neither is a godly life.
 - A godly life is worth the work. vs. 8
 - Most things are either good up front and bad later, or bad up front and good later. **Illustration:** eating chocolate and sweets versus exercise
 - A godly life will require sacrifice. vs. 10
 - When you trust God and live a godly life, not everybody will like it.
2 Timothy 3:12