

STUDY 6

HOW TO BEHAVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

OBJECTIVES

1. To be able to explain why the Church is described as the “Household of God”.
2. To be able to defend the importance of teaching in the various ministries of the Church.
3. To compare and contrast the fruit of false teaching with that of sound teaching.
4. To describe the main responsibilities of those that Christ calls to be pastors.



BACKGROUND

Paul was hoping to be released soon after writing this first epistle to Timothy, but he seems to also have had an inkling that he might be imprisoned longer than he anticipated. As a result he, establishes a theological foundation for how to live and behave as a Christian. Interestingly, he builds this foundation on a popular ancient Christian hymn.

201. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 May 2021 at 7:58:02 pm
Acts 16:15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

202. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 May 2021 at 7:59:46 pm
Acts 18:8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

203. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 May 2021 at 7:41:24 pm
1Tim. 3:15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

204. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 May 2021 at 7:41:42 pm
As a 'household of God'

205. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 May 2021 at 8:25:52 pm
1Tim. 4:10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

206. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 May 2021 at 8:27:19 pm
The priority would have become seeing others come to know Christ as their Saviour.

207. Dr. Andrew Corbett

20 May 2021 at 10:36:52 am
household

INSTRUCTION

Objective 1 - To be able to explain why the Church is described as the "Household of God".

The expression 'household' is grounded in the Greco-Roman concept of those in the care of a *householder*. Householders in the Greco-Roman world of the first century were leaders in their community whose status was determined by their wealth, the number of their servants, their connections, and the level of their influence. Members of a household usually included the householder's wife, unmarried sisters and sisters-in-law of the householder, the householder's parents and parents-in-law, the householder's children, and servants (slaves). The average householder owned one or two slaves, but some wealthier householders owned dozens of slaves or more. Whenever Paul and his colleagues arrived in a town or city, they sought to win a householder to the Lord (Acts 16:15; 18:8). By doing so, they essentially planted a ready-made church with an existing leadership structure.

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1. How does Paul describe these converted households according to First Timothy 3:15?

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The gospel not only transformed the *occupants* of these householder churches, it also transformed the household's priorities. No longer would it be just a matter of status for the householder, but now it would be a gathering of people who care for each other and extend its care beyond its property and family boundaries.

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2. How does Paul's statement in First Timothy 4:10 reveal what the new priority of the household was?

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The *h_____d of God* was to be a community where *all* people were welcome to meet with God and find equal status and acceptance among each of the other followers of Christ. Its care and concern was extended to women, the poor, children, widows, and even slaves!

208. Dr. Andrew Corbett
23 May 2021 at 1:45:56 pm
1Tim. 1:4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.

209. Dr. Andrew Corbett
19 May 2021 at 8:51:28 pm
1Tim. 3:15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

210. Dr. Andrew Corbett
19 May 2021 at 8:52:01 pm
Paul describes the church as the pillar and buttress of truth. The Church was to uphold the truth to counter the lies opposing it.

211. Dr. Andrew Corbett
19 May 2021 at 9:05:24 pm
behave

212. Dr. Andrew Corbett
19 May 2021 at 9:06:58 pm
1Tim. 3:15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

213. Dr. Andrew Corbett
19 May 2021 at 9:20:32 pm
godliness

214. Dr. Andrew Corbett
19 May 2021 at 9:23:04 pm
1Tim. 3:16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:
He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.

215. Dr. Andrew Corbett
20 May 2021 at 2:52:41 pm
1. He was manifested in the flesh - this countered the gnostic heresy that Jesus was not actually physical.
2. He was 'vindicated' by the Holy Spirit who raised from the dead

208 It seems that the Ephesians were partial to mythologies (1Tim. 1:4; and fables — things that were not true. Added to this, these young-in-the-lord Ephesian believers were also prone to the falsehoods of the gnostics (those who thought that the material world was evil, and therefore Jesus was not really incarnate, that is, He did not really become a human), and the Judaizers (who taught that salvation came from keeping the law of Moses *and* trusting Jesus as Saviour).

3. While living among a culture that believed lies, how did Paul describe the Church in First Timothy 3:15 in a way that challenged its culture?

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211 Paul wanted believers to b_____e differently than non-believers (1Tim 3:15) so that their witness before non-believers would be reinforced by the way they lived. The standard of behaviour that Paul upholds is that of Christ, the ultimate standard of g_____s .

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4. What do we learn about Jesus Christ from the hymn that Paul cites in First Timothy 3:16 and how did it counter some of the false teaching about Jesus promoted by gnostics or Judaizers?

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It's worth noting how early in Christianity's history that hymns were written to teach some of the essential doctrines of the New Covenant. [Q. 11, 13]

Objective 2 - To be able to defend the importance of teaching in the various ministries of the Church.

The opening verses of First Timothy 4 addressed one of the two sources of false teaching that Paul was exhorting Timothy to correct: *gnosticism*.

216. Dr. Andrew Corbett

20 May 2021 at 4:19:38 pm
1Tim. 4:1 ¶ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,
1Tim. 4:2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,
1Tim. 4:3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

217. Dr. Andrew Corbett

25 May 2021 at 10:26:42 am
Option a

218. Dr. Andrew Corbett

20 May 2021 at 4:26:03 pm
1Tim. 4:4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,
1Tim. 4:5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

219. Dr. Andrew Corbett

20 May 2021 at 4:26:21 pm
It reveals that God did not make the material world to be evil. In fact, evil is nearly always something that God has created for a good purpose that the enemy has inspired to be used for another purpose. Food is good — but addiction to eating is the sin of gluttony and therefore something that God intended to be good can be misused and result in evil.

220. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 May 2021 at 7:51:02 pm
1Tim. 4:1 ¶ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,
1Tim. 4:2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,
1Tim. 4:3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

221. Dr. Andrew Corbett

20 May 2021 at 4:36:45 pm
1Tim. 4:5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

222. Dr. Andrew Corbett

20 May 2021 at 4:36:52 pm
God's Word sets the boundaries for the use of finances, sex, and the eating of food. We should be prayerfully thankful for each of these things.

216 5. From what you already know about the errors of gnosticism, match the following statements by Paul in **First Timothy 4:1-3** to the errors of gnosticism -

- (a) "some will depart from the faith" — The gnostics believed that 'holiness' was attained by much fasting.
- (b) "devoting themselves to deceitful spirits" — The gnostics believed that marital relations was 'unholy' and therefore forbid it.
- (c) "through the insincerity of liars" — Paul identifies these gnostic teachers as being demonically deceived.
- (d) "who forbid marriage" — Some weak believers will be lured away by gnostic teachers. 217
- (e) "require abstinence of food" — Some of these gnostic teachers didn't even believe their teaching themselves but were using it as a means to defraud wealthy widows of money.

218 6. How does Paul counter some of this false teaching in **First Timothy 4:4**? What does this tell us about God and the world He has made?

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220 'Evil' is nearly always the misuse of something that God has created as *good*. Each of the things identified in the **First Timothy 4:1-3** — finances, marital relations, and food — have a divinely intended *good* purpose. But when they are *not* used as God intended, it nearly always ends up harming someone and therefore becomes *wicked* (which originally meant *twisted* or *crooked*).

221 7. Note **First Timothy 4:5**. How can we ensure that we always use God's gifts to us in a *holy* way?

222 _____

223. Dr. Andrew Corbett
20 May 2021 at 5:00:52 pm
Christ

224. Dr. Andrew Corbett
20 May 2021 at 5:13:04 pm
obey

225. Dr. Andrew Corbett
20 May 2021 at 5:07:08 pm
In our character. We should strive to be forgiving, patient with others, caring, courageously faithful to God, wise, and committed to God's Word.

226. Dr. Andrew Corbett
20 May 2021 at 5:33:23 pm
1Tim. 4:6 ¶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

227. Dr. Andrew Corbett
20 May 2021 at 5:34:17 pm
Paul places the emphasis for 'good pastoring' upon being well-trained in "the faith" (Christian theology) and being able to teach good doctrine that accords with the Word of God.

228. Dr. Andrew Corbett
20 May 2021 at 5:39:12 pm
1Tim. 4:7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;
1Tim. 4:8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

229. Dr. Andrew Corbett
22 May 2021 at 3:23:48 pm
1Tim. 4:8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

230. Dr. Andrew Corbett
22 May 2021 at 4:06:25 pm
1Tim. 4:9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

Objective 3 - To compare and contrast the fruit of the false teaching with sound teaching.

Godliness is being *godly*. Put simply, because Christ is the highest example of godliness, therefore we can confidently say, *godliness is being like* **C _ _ _ _ t**. This doesn't mean that we have to wander around Israel in leather sandals! But it does mean that just as Jesus obeyed His heavenly **o _ _ _ y** our Heavenly Father as well wherever He has placed us and in whatever role He has assigned to us.

8. In what other ways are we to be godly like Jesus?

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9. What makes for a 'good' pastor? Note what Paul states in **First Timothy 4:6** qualifies someone as "a good minister"? How might this challenge how some people see the role of a pastor?

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8. There is a connection between sound doctrine and godliness. How does Paul state in **First Timothy 4:7-8** that godliness should be attained and why is this pursuit so important?

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You may become incredibly *physically* fit within your lifetime, but your physical fitness will be *eternally* irrelevant. On the other hand, your *spiritual* fitness —your *godliness*— in this lifetime, has eternal consequences! (**1Tim. 4:8**) This truth was so important among the early church community that it had become a common and well-known saying (**1Tim. 4:9**). [Q. 13]

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231. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 May 2021 at 5:21:49 pm
1Tim. 4:10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

232. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 May 2021 at 5:55:54 pm
1Tim. 4:11 ¶ Command and teach these things.
1Tim. 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.
1Tim. 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.
1Tim. 4:14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.
1Tim. 4:15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.
1Tim. 4:16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

- 9. Perhaps one of the greatest evidences of genuine godliness is a consistent concern for the eternal destiny of the lost. While the Judaizers were teaching that God was only prepared to those who became Jews first, how does Paul’s statement in **First Timothy 4:10** disagree with this teaching?

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Objective 4 - To describe the main responsibilities of those that Christ calls to be pastors.

To highlight just how much pressure most pastors are under, one group scoured the positions vacant for pastors and compiled this “Perfect Pastor” list -

The following are the top eight characteristics local churches identified as qualities a perfect pastor should possess.

- 1. The perfect pastor is one who will be able to please everyone in the church and meets each church member's expectations.
- 2. The perfect pastor speaks the truth, stands up for injustice, but never steps on anyone’s toes.
- 3. The perfect pastor preaches an inspiring sermon every Sunday that makes you cry, laugh, and think deeply about everyday life while still managing to get you out of worship under an hour.
- 4. The perfect pastor works from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, doing everything from preaching sermons to sweeping.
- 5. The perfect pastor is 36 years old, and has been preaching 40 years.
- 6. The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with the youth, and spends all his time with the senior citizens.
- 7. The perfect pastor smiles and has a keen sense of humour, all the while keeping a straight face that shows serious dedication to all tasks.
- 8. The perfect pastor makes 15 calls a day on church members, spends every free moment evangelising to non-members, and is always found in the church office when needed.

[Q. 11]

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- 10. Read **First Timothy 4:11-16** and see if you could come up with a different set of responsibilities for a *biblical* pastor -

APPLICATION

11. If you met someone who claimed to be a believer but they stated that since the early Church met in homes without paid pastors so should Christians today. Based on this, they also told you that our modern churches were unscriptural and so was the concept of having paid pastors. How might you use Paul's teaching in First Timothy to respond to this?

12. The early church congregations were known as *the household of God* where each member worked together to bring people to Christ and make these new converts feel welcome within their communities. How can we today work together to bring people to Christ and make them feel welcome in our church?

13. What might begin to happen within a church if the pastor stopped preaching the Word for weeks on end because he or she "felt led" that all they needed to do is praise and worship together?
