

ECCLESIA

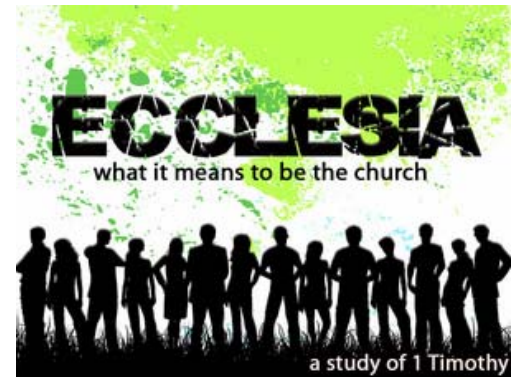
LIVING AS FAMILY: 1 Timothy 3:8-16

SHARINGSTORIES

Ted shared the story about the Rabbi being shown heaven and hell and introduced a wonderful image of our relationship with one another. Those in hell were starving despite having a huge pot of stew in front of them. They could not get the enormously long spoons back to their mouths. On the other hand, those in heaven were well fed, content, and happy. They too knew they could not feed themselves, but they discovered they could feed each other. This made all the difference in the world. We are in the same situation on earth. We have amazing resources available to us but cannot make use of them by ourselves. It is only when we come together and serve each other that we are able to be satisfied. We are an interdependent body. Paul closes the third chapter of his letter to Timothy reminding him how to go about being a faithful steward and managing the household of God.

How important is the leadership of our church for management, direction, and guidance?

Do you have any issues with the requirements for elders and deacons? If so, what are they?



DIGGINGIN

Review the first seven verses of chapter 3. Now read verses 8-16 and look for connections.

Why does Paul emphasize character qualities over specific abilities, skills, or gifts?

Why do you think Paul specified these particular character qualities?

How can those who are not elders or deacons still have a voice in our church?

What does Paul say comes from serving in these capacities?

GOINGDEEPER

Paul ends the chapter with what seems to be a quote from a hymn or poem of the time as he affirms the nature of the church and personhood of Christ.

Why can memorization be so important in our journey of faith? Share personal experiences.

How does Paul define the nature of the church?

PRAYER

Spend this time discerning how best pray for one another. Praise God for one specific item and petition Him for one request on their behalf.

We have lots of transitions taking place. Pray for those moving on and those stepping into new roles. Pray for our entire body of leadership. Pray for our elders, deacons, and staff. Thank God for bringing each person to Trinity Chapel and letting us know He has done so for a specific purpose. Ask the Father to keep our eyes and hearts turned toward others. Thank Him for being our God.

REFLECTION

What one idea has the Spirit impressed on your mind and heart from this passage?

What about your thinking of women in the church need to change? Explain.

ECCLESIAWHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE CHURCH