

## Household Habits: 5 Habits of a Grown-Up Congregation

1 Timothy 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; <sup>15</sup> but if I am delayed, I [write] so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

### #1 – Keep the Truth with You – “that you may know” – a remaining knowledge

- God wants us to come to know and continue to know truth
- Not heard and forgotten (entertainment)

### #2 – Live By God’s Clear Instructions – “how” – a specific process

- God’s truth is not made up of vague generalities, but included are specific and practical actions, directions, and attitudes
- God is wanting to tell you how to live, and He has the knowledge and right to do so
- God’s Word is a life-instruction book, not just a message of salvation – a true manual for living
- you cannot get to where God wants you to go if you are not following His map, His directions, His manual
- Sanctification is changing our conduct through God’s Word – Word-changed thoughts & actions

### #3 – Accept the Mandate of Truth – “you ought” – a required process

- The meaning of “*you ought*” – essential, not optional  
John 3:7 “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You **must** be born again.’”  
John 3:14 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so **must** the Son of Man be lifted up,  
John 3:30 “He **must** increase, but I *must* decrease.  
John 4:24 “God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth.”  
1 Tim 3:2 A bishop then **must** be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;  
1 Tim 3:7 Moreover he **must** have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- God’s truth and commands are not optional
- You can’t get from A to B any other way (“I am the way, the truth, and the life”)
- Two Gates: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide [is] the gate and broad [is] the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow [is] the gate and difficult [is] the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14) – it is difficult, but right
- Don’t explain God’s truth away with culture (what is true then?), your “special circumstances, etc.

### #4 – Develop Deep Routines of Right Behavior – “to conduct yourself” – a habitual practice

- Known, ongoing, 2nd nature routine of obedient lifestyle w/in the church – a good rut – do the truth until it is habit
- Yourself – personal fulfillment of personal responsibility & personal maturity
- Following God’s instruction book in the area of your lives – teaching in 1 Timothy includes:
  - The purpose of teaching
  - Who can teach
  - Priorities and focus of prayer
  - Modesty and women
  - Roles of men and women in the home and church
  - Who can lead, and what God requires leaders to be before they can lead
  - The functions of pastors, and the responsibility of the congregation to them
  - How to relate to church family (older & younger women, older men)
  - The requirement for stability and accountability
  - How to care for widows, and who is to care for them
  - The responsibilities of women
  - Remuneration of pastors
  - Requirements to accuse a pastor
  - Choosing leaders
  - Relating to masters (under someone else’s authority without your choosing)
  - Right perspective on wealth and the pursuit of wealth (contentment)

### #5 – Commit Yourself to Your Spiritual Family – “in the house[hold] of God” – a special people

- A commitment to a specific group of people as a body and family
- Three Descriptions of This Family
  - Household of God – God’s family
  - Church (assembly) of the living God – God’s people; saved saints who serve the true & living Savior
  - The pillar and ground of the truth (protect, participate, practice, proclaim)
- Be a family – The church IS your spiritual family – member obligations
- Avoid unbiblical, rival “spiritual” groups that replace or divide your focus
- Fulfill of your family duties & responsibilities
  - Being with your church family
  - Encouraging your church family
  - Carrying your own responsibilities in your own family
  - Doing ministry work
  - Ministering with your spiritual gifts
  - Bearing one another’s extra-heavy burdens
- Commit to being involved, doing what you are supposed to do
  - Eph 4:11-16 – joined and knit together by what every joint supplies
  - Heb 3:12-13 – exhort one another daily...lest you be hardened...by sin
  - Heb 10:24-25 – let us consider one another in order to stir up love & works