

5 Habits of Grown-Up Believers in a Grown-Up Congregation

1 Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ 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