

Church Demographics

1 Timothy 3-6

Introduction: Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are the church. A local church such as Seoul Bible Church assembles together (*ekklesia*) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Together the church 1) corporately worships (exalt) the Lord, 2) mutually edifies and exhorts one another to love and good works, and 3) evangelizes the lost. You see these three corporate goals in the church mission statement on our website as well as on the top of your bulletin every week.

1-2 Timothy and Titus are letters that the Apostle Paul wrote to two men as they led local churches in Ephesus and Crete. These “pastoral epistles” are essentially church handbooks— a “how to” manual for the church. These letters teach us how to “do” church and how to “be” the church of Jesus Christ.

The church of Jesus Christ is each saved believer in a local assembly. This year we have seen the church body has many members, each with different gifts. No member of the body can be ignored. No member of the body can simply exist— each member of the body must do what God has designed that member to do.

The eye must see; the ear must hear; the feet must go! If the liver becomes bitter that it cannot be the beating heart and goes on strike, the body will be in serious condition indeed! So it is with each and every one of us.

Each of us are unique. No one of us is identical to any other person here. Husbands and wives are different from one another and from other couples. Children and teens don’t have the experience of the more mature among us; the more mature may not have the same physical endurance we had as teenagers or twenty or thirty year olds.

For each one of us as Christians, we have a job to do. 1 Timothy 2 assures us that each of us should be effectual prayer warriors. Each of us should maintain our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Be careful not to

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grieve the Holy Spirit in our actions. By doing this God the Father will be pleased with us as He was with His Son, Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:1-13 describes the character of the overseer, the pastor as well as the deacons who lead the church. The chapter ends on a universal note, for the entire church. God's Word tells us about the mystery of Godliness so we will know how to live (**read 1 Timothy 3:14-16**). In these verses we are once again reminded that godliness is the right response to the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ who humbled Himself in the Incarnation to become a man, fulfilled all righteousness before His Father and the angels, was baptized by the Holy Spirit, and gave His life for us before rising triumphantly and being glorified at the Father's right hand. In these verses we are reminded that the Lord Jesus Christ alone is the Savior (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 4:10). Truly, Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (John 20:31)!

As the month of October ends, we are reminded that on October 31, 1517 a monk in Wittenberg nailed 95 theses to a church door, sparking the Reformation. One of the five keys that opened the church door from the chains of Catholicism was the doctrine of "*sola Scriptura*." This doctrine teaches us that the Bible alone is sufficient for teaching about all things pertaining to life and salvation. The Holy Spirit gave us this inerrant writing; we do not need popes, priests, or tradition to translate the Scriptures. We must not add to the Bible and call it the Word of God; to do so brings us under the curse of Revelation. 1 Timothy 4 once again points us to the importance of the Bible in church (1 Timothy 4:6). We teach the Bible (4:11,13). We preach the Bible. We obey the Bible (4:7-11). We condemn what the Bible condemns and we approve what the Bible approves (1 Timothy 4:1-4, 7). As the apostles gave themselves to preaching and prayer (Acts 6:3), so pastors must exercise themselves to study the Scriptures, know them, explain them as the Lord gifts them to do so (1 Timothy 4:13-16). Pastors must do this as they set the example of obedience to the Scriptures (1 Timothy 4:12).

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1 Timothy 5-6 concludes with a recognition that every person in the church needs to respond to the Word of God. Every person needs to show by their lives that they are Christians before a skeptical world. The church takes care of its own, thus showing by our love for one another our love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every person in the church needs attention (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

Recognize some in the church need special help (1 Timothy 5:3-13).

Widows in this time often suffered from poverty. The church could help those widows who were older and did not have family. Family should be the first helper of family members in need.

Require the able to support themselves and others (1 Timothy

5:14-16) Younger widows could remarry, have children, and be a blessing at home. When my mom was widowed in her twenties, she remained single, but she supported her two children on a Christian school teacher's salary. She served God, paid her bills, and was a testimony in the churches she attended.

Recompense church pastors (1 Timothy 5:17-25). Sinning pastors must be given a hearing and a chance to repent. The pastor serves God and the church. He also has needs. He too falls into sin as we all do, but he must not remain in sin. Stubborn sinning pastors must be biblically dealt with.

Reality: You are a Christian. Whether Poor or Rich, you represent the Lord Jesus Christ! As an employee, you are a Christian employee. Live like it (1 Timothy 6:1-2). If you're rich, be humble and helpful with your generosity (1 Tim 6:17-19). **If you're a Christian, follow these ABCDs:**

Avoid divisiveness (1 Timothy 6:3-5)

Be content (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

Commit to righteous zealous living for God (1 Timothy 6:11-16)

Defend the faith (1 Timothy 6:20-21)