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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11


**1 Timothy 3:14-15**  
Lesson #10  
**Household Conduct**  
06/25/2023

1

*Too many congregations expect the ministers to minister and the congregation to congregate to show up, shut up, and cough up.*

- Are most ministries confined to programs, meetings, or sacraments?
- Is a layperson's involvement like that of a patient in a hospital, or spectator in a theater?

**Do the N.T. epistles paint a clear picture of how we ought to conduct ourselves in and cas the church?**




2

*1 Timothy 3*

"14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may **know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."


**This text could be the key to understanding 1 Timothy.**




3

**Reminder #1**  
*Don't be a spectator.*


Top down



**Pope**  
(Roman Catholic)  
50%



**Creeds**  
(Eastern Orthodox)  
12%



**Scripture**  
(Protestant)  
37%

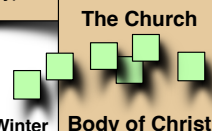
Bottom up  
"Priesthood of all believers"

4



**Reminder #2**  
*Think of the church as the family of God.*

**Modality**  
Broad focus  
Different levels of commitment and diverse gifts  
(Family)

**Sodality**  
Narrow focus  
Specialized mission / priorities, and similar gifts  
(CRU)



**The Church**  
**Body of Christ**

5

**Reminder #3**  
*Know your goal and accept your role.*

*Ephesians 4*

"11 And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**, **12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;**"

**Leaders are to equip laypeople to minister in forming the Body of Christ.**

6

love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)  
 be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)  
 honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)  
 live in **harmony** with one another (Romans 12:16)  
 build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)  
 be **likeminded towards** one another (Romans 15:5)  
 accept one another (Romans 15:7)  
 admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)  
 care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)  
 serve one another (Galatians 5:13)  
 bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)  
 forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)  
 be **patient** with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)  
 be **kind and compassionate** to one another (Ephesians 4:32)  
 speak to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)  
 submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)  
 consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)  
 look to the **interests** of one another (Philippians 2:4)  
 bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)  
 teach one another (Colossians 3:16)  
 comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)  
 encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)  
 stir up one another to **love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)  
 show **hospitality** to one another (1 Peter 4:9)  
 employ the gifts that God has given us for the **benefit** of one another (1 Peter 4:10)  
 clothe yourselves with **humility** towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)  
 pray for one another (James 5:16)  
 confess our faults to one another (James 5:16)

**The two greatest commands, on which, according to Jesus, all the others depend, are concerned with relationships, with God and one another**  
 (Matthew 22:36-40)

**Ministering with and to one another is not a distraction from the main thing, it is the main thing.**

**The N.T. Epistles were written to churches, not clergy.**

7

*Ephesians 4*

“13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together **by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

8

**“Body Life” is lay ministry centered.**

- Lay people should be **doing MOST** of the **face to face ministry** in a healthy church.
- Ministry is **not so much event or program centered** as relationship centered.
- The leaders should **liberate, not lord it over the sheep** in areas of ministry.
  - This means **prepare and protect**, lay ministry.
  - Believers are motivated and energized to **use their gifts as an act of worship**, when they are equipped and free to do so.

9

**Tip #1**  
**Select, encourage, and pray for leaders to do their part.**



*1 Corinthians 12*

“4 Now there are **varieties of gifts**, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. 6 And there are **varieties of effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

10

**Strategy for pastoral care in a crisis**



**ACTIVATE**  
a planned response

**ADVANCE**  
a wise solution

**ARTICULATE**  
the root challenge

**AFFIRM**  
a common objective

11

**Rules of engagement for Christians**

1. If you are not a part of the problem or the solution **back off**.
2. Work and pray for that which will not perish - **godly character and Christian community**.
3. Greet all circumstances with **gratitude as an opportunity** to develop / demonstrate character.
4. **Fear not, love deeply, proceed wisely**, and walk by **faith**.
5. Take your baptism seriously knowing that God expects you to be **dead to the flesh & worldliness**.

12

**Tip #2**  
*Be a team player by using your gifts, staying in your lane, and encouraging others.*

The church is not the **Body Parts of Christ.** The church is the **Body of Christ but only when the pieces FUNCTION as synced with one another and the Head.**

13

**Tip #3**  
*Speak truth with love.*

- L**isten to a person's life stories.  
*Make it safe for people to "open up".*
- O**verlook a person's weakness.  
*Don't be distracted by other's flaws.*
- V**alue a person's strengths.  
*Affirm God's Image in others.*
- E**mpathize with a person's joys and sorrows.  
*Community is built on shared experiences and emotions.*

14

*When we face disappointments:*

- What is the main thing?
- Do we grow antennae or horns?
- Are anger and anxiety life labs for insight, wisdom, & witness?
- How much are we willing to give up?

15

1 Cor. 13:4-7

**Love is** a response to **an inner response to people and problems** leads to an outer witness to the light of the Gospel.

Love is patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, not unbecoming, not self seeking, is not provoked, holds no grudges, does not rejoice in sin, rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes/hopes all things, endures all things.

Love is trials, insults, success of others, success of self, power & authority, freedom, competition, confrontation, injustice, failure of others, gossip & slander, losses, discouragement, delayed hopes.

16

*Our words are connecting bridges.*

Small talk, Shop talk, Shield talk, Steer talk, Search talk, Straight talk, Self talk

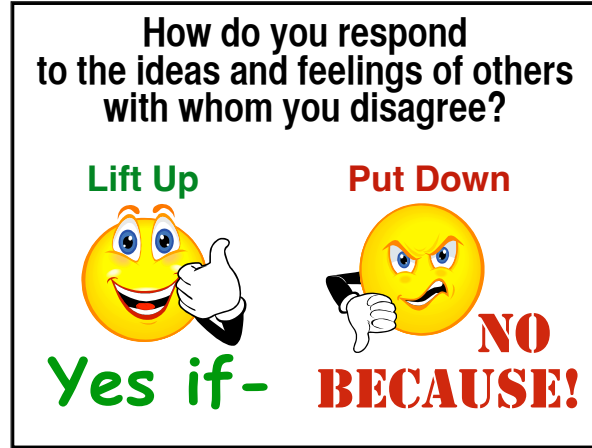
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When my image and fears relate to your image and fears we may feel safe but **we are not connecting.**

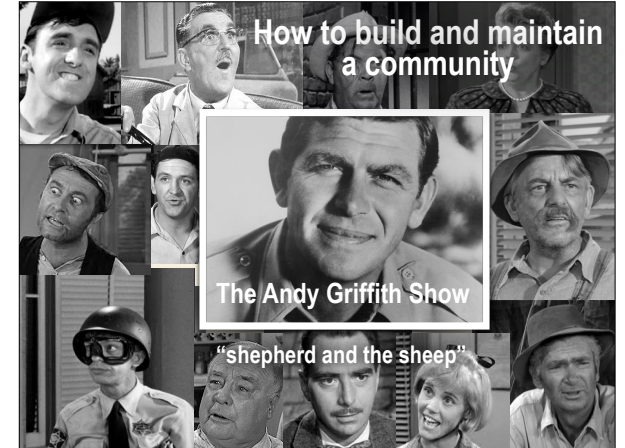
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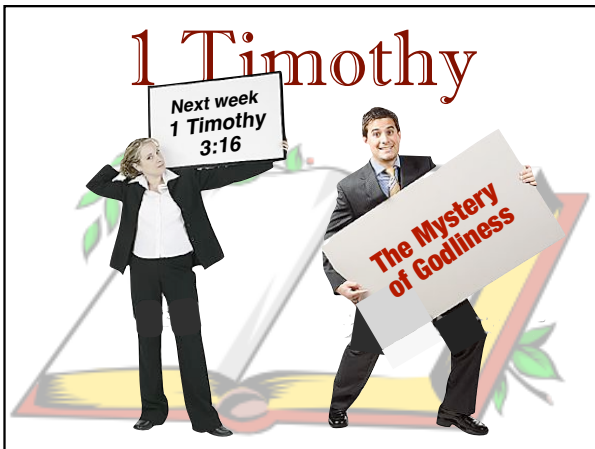
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21



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