

“I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.” 1 Timothy 3:14-15 NLT

lectio // 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Every NT writer talks about our horizontal relationships between each other as a priority, but the Apostle Paul really pushes this concept of One Another even further. Here, he is admonishing Timothy so that the readers get the point - treat each other well! He might be talking about the ecclesiastical processes of “doing” church, but I’m convinced it was all about HOW we go about BEING towards each other. This applies because “we” corporately and cooperatively ARE the church. This is where others see this pillar and foundation of truth - it is IN how we live. The closer we get to the core leadership of the church, we MUST see Jesus at work in our behaviors, attitudes, responses to those we call family!

oratio

Dad,
I have spent my entire Christian life focusing on you AND how you want me to behave towards the family of God first, then to those who do not yet know you. I must love actionably! I must serve, be patient with, forgive and sacrifice for those who know I represent you. This is where I constantly need help. I can excuse a non-believer in the behavior, but it is much harder for me to do so with those in the family. I expect more, I find myself demanding more. The longer someone has walked with you, I have this unexplained anger to want them to behave better! I don’t even know their story and I am totally judging them! It’s even worse when they are trying to cover up their bad behaviors and frail egos with pompous attitude, superior knowledge of scripture or some male machismo! When I ask for help, I know you’ll just surround me with more of them! What is triggering in me to react so hostile towards them?

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root