

CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH

Part 9 of Confident Living

1 Timothy 3:14-15. The Cornerstone Church, July 4, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Back in your school days, did it ever seem that each teacher thought their class was the most important class in the school? They would pile on the reading and the papers and the assignments and expect you to give all your time and attention to them. They forgot you had five other courses to work on.

With that in mind, listen to the bottom line of today's teaching:

We should all make Sunday our church day.

Well, of course I would say that. I'm your pastor and it's my job to love church.

But that's not my motivation. No, I know that **people who are active in a church family find spiritual resources that make them resilient under pressure.** They stand firm in the storms of life.

With that in mind, I want to show you what spiritual resources the church has for you. Then, I'm going to give you three reasons to make Sunday your church day.

Today's Bible passage is 1 Timothy 3:14-15. Before I read it, it might be helpful to have some context.

1 Timothy is a letter from the apostle Paul to his representative, Timothy. Paul sent Timothy to the church in Ephesus to accomplish three main objectives:

- Teach true doctrine
- Appoint qualified elders and deacons
- Bring good order to worship gatherings

Paul outlines all this in chapters one through three. Then, he writes verses 14-15. Let's read that passage now.

1 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

(1 Timothy 3:14-15) Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Do you see the three descriptions of the church in verse 15?

- God's household
- The church of the living God
- The pillar and foundation of the truth

Obviously, the apostle Paul believed that the church has a unique and extraordinary importance in our lives.

Let's take a closer look at those three descriptions of the church to identify the spiritual resources for resilience it can offer.

THE CHURCH'S RESOURCES FOR RESILIENCE

I enjoy westerns - both novels and movies. Those old cowboys were tough. They'd saddle up in all weathers and work the herd. Then, they would bed down in the open air around a camp fire, use their saddle for a pillow, push their stetson over their eyes, and fall asleep. Get up early and do it all again. Cowboys were resilient.

Resilience is what we need to stand firm through the storms of life. And the church has the resources to make us resilient. How? Look at the three descriptions of the church in verse 15. The church is:

The Household of God. A household is a family. This perspective emphasizes our connections to both God and one another. We are God's children by adoption through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:5) and, therefore, brothers and sisters in his family. God is full of parental love and care for us (that's what makes us strong and resilient), but he often channels his love and care through our brothers and sisters in the church. The term "one another" (Gk. *allelon*) is used over and over in NT letters to describe this.

The Church of the Living God. This is a very important perspective for three reasons. First, the church belongs to God - *of*. Secondly, he is the *living* God; that is, he is present and active in his church. Third, the Greek word for church is *ekklesia* which refers to an assembly of people. The church is people not a building. In fact, the people are the building that God fills when we gather together: (Ephesians 2:22) "In him (the Lord Jesus) you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." Scholar, Philip Ryken, writes, "He lives among his people, especially in their public worship. Whenever Christians gather for prayer and praise, for Word and sacrament, God takes up residence among them ... God is in the house."

The Pillar and Foundation of the Truth. God speaks his Word to us. Today, the main ways to hear God's Word are by the written Word, the Bible, and the living Word, Jesus. The written Word plus the living Word equals the *truth*. Paul pictures the church as a temple for Jesus and the Bible (hence the word picture of pillar and foundation) where the truth (Bible) can be found. When we gather and the Bible and Jesus are read and sung and prayed and experienced and preached, the truth creates resilient faith for the storms of life. Jesus told us, when we put his words into practice we build our lives on a rock so that we stand firm in the storms of life (Matthew 7:24-25). The Word of God makes us resilient.

REASONS TO MAKE SUNDAY YOUR CHURCH DAY

To summarize, the spiritual resources available in the church are:

- The support of God's family.
- The Spirit of God active in church.
- The spoken, sung, prayed, visible, living Word of Truth.

Therefore, it is very advantageous for us to be active in the church. **People who are active in a church family find resources for resilience.** So ... what can we do to be active in the church? Answer: **Make Sunday, your church day.**

It sounds so simple, but there are so many alternatives calling us away from being in church together on Sundays. Plus, we can "go to church" online, right? Plus, we're tired. There are so many reasons not to be together on Sunday, but here are three reasons to make Sunday your church day.

Online church is not the same as on-campus church. The last 18 months have taught me this without a doubt. There may be circumstances where online church is the only choice for someone, but normally, it is far more spiritually nourishing to be together here on campus. I'd go this far: online church isn't really church. Watching baseball isn't the same as playing baseball and watching church isn't the same as being the church together with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Being together in the presence of God is very powerful. Even when we don't feel it, God is working through the Sunday service to make us resilient. He is present and active here, now. Being together, serving together, singing together, praying together, hearing the truth together, celebrating Holy Communion together, in the presence of God together, makes us strong and resilient when tough times try to knock us down.

Skiping church has unintended consequences. The Christian faith is both caught AND taught. If our actions don't match our words, our kids will do what we do not what we say. What do they learn about the importance of Jesus and faith and church if we **routinely** skip church for other activities? Our kids deserve to grow up loving Jesus and his church because they know and see and imitate what we do.

CONCLUSION

When I first came to faith in Jesus, I didn't want to go to church services. I don't remember why. After a couple of weeks, however, I agreed to go to church with my friends. I can honestly say, from that day until now, I have been in love with the church. I couldn't get enough of it because I experienced spiritual reality and life-changing power in church services. I also connected with people who love Jesus and I found a "family of friends" to support me in my faith journey.

This was long before I ever worked for a church. I don't love the church because it's my job. No, it's my job because I love the church.

Back then, I didn't know the Bible well enough to put words to what was happening, but today I do: I was experiencing God's family, God's presence, and God's Word and my life was changing for the better.

I know that I'm preaching to choir here today. You're here because you love the church and you've experienced the spiritual benefits of making Sunday your church day. I hope my teaching has encouraged you and even renewed your love for the church.

The people who also need to hear this teaching may be watching online. If that's the only way you can connect with the Cornerstone, God bless you. However, if you can be here with us, I'm inviting you to church on campus. I'm urging you to make Sundays your church day. That's a decision you will never regret.

This week: If you'd like to explore what it means to be part of the church, try this 14 day devotional/reading plan from Dr. Charles Stanley: **The Whole Church** on the Bible app.

"When Jesus Christ founded His church, He had a clear vision of what it would be—and He's calling each of us to participate in that vision, both in our local communities and around the world. Join Dr. Charles Stanley and In Touch Ministries as they help you discover what it means to be part of His church, finding your unique place in the story of God's people."

ONE ANOTHER Sorted As Occurring In The New Testament

JESUS COMANDED THE FOLLOWING FOR ONE ANOTHER

01. Mark	9:50	..... <u>have peace</u>	one	..... with	another
02. John	13:34	..... <u>love</u>	one	.....	another
03. John	15:12	..... <u>love</u>	one	.....	another
04. John	15:17	..... <u>love</u>	one	.....	another

"DO" THE FOLOWING TO ONE ANOTHER

1. Romans	12:5	..... <u>We Are Members</u>	one	..... of	another
2. Romans	12:10a	..... <u>Be Kindly Affectioned</u>	one	..... to	another ....with brotherly love
3. Romans	12:10b	..... <u>Preferring</u>	one	.....	another ....in honour
4. Romans	12:16	..... <u>Be Of The Same Mind</u>	one	..... toward	another
5. Romans	13:8	..... <u>Love</u>	one	.....	another
6. Romans	15:14	..... <u>Admonish</u>	one	.....	another
7. Romans	15:5	..... <u>Be Likeminded</u>	one	..... toward	another
8. Romans	15:7	..... <u>Receive</u>	one	.....	another
9. Romans	16:16	..... <u>Salute</u>	one	.....	another ....with an holy kiss
10. 1 Corinthians	11:33	..... <u>Tarry</u>	one	..... for	another
11. 1 Corinthians	12:25	..... <u>Have The Same Care</u>	one	..... for	another
12. 1 Corinthians	16:20	..... <u>Greet</u>	one	.....	another ....with an holy kiss
13. 2 Corinthians	13:12	..... <u>Greet</u>	one	.....	another ....with an holy kiss
14. Galatians	5:13	..... <u>Serve</u>	one	.....	another ....by love
15. Ephesians	4:2	..... <u>Forbearing</u>	one	.....	another ....in love, with all lowliness, meekness, & longsuffering
16. Ephesians	4:25	..... <u>We Are Members</u>	one	..... of	another
17. Ephesians	4:32a	..... <u>Be Ye Kind</u>	one	..... to	another
18. Ephesians	4:32b	..... <u>Forgiving</u>	one	.....	another ....tenderheartedly
19. Ephesians	5:21	..... <u>Submitting Yourselves</u>	one	..... to	another
20. Colossians	3:13a	..... <u>Forbearing</u>	one	.....	another
21. Colossians	3:13b	..... <u>Forgiving</u>	one	.....	another
22. Colossians	3:16a	..... <u>Teaching</u>	one	.....	another
23. Colossians	3:16b	..... <u>Admonishing</u>	one	.....	another
24. 1 Thessalonians	4:18	..... <u>Comfort</u>	one	.....	another
25. 1 Thessalonians	5:11a	..... <u>Comfort</u>	one	..... yourselves	together
26. 1 Thessalonians	5:11b	..... <u>Edify</u>	one	.....	another
27. Hebrews	3:13	..... <u>Exhort</u>	one	.....	another ....daily
28. Hebrews	10:24-25	..... <u>Consider</u>	one	.....	another
29. James	5:16a	..... <u>Confess Your Faults</u>	one	..... to	another
30. James	5:16b	..... <u>Pray</u>	one	..... for	another
31. 1 Peter	1:22	..... <u>Love</u>	one	.....	another ....with a pure heart fervently
32. 1 Peter	3:8a	..... <u>Be Ye All Of One Mind</u>	one	..... for	another
33. 1 Peter	3:8b	..... <u>Having Compassion</u>	one	..... of	another
34. 1 Peter	4:9	..... <u>Use Hospitality</u>	one	..... to	another ....without grudging
35. 1 Peter	4:10	..... <u>Minister The Same</u>	one	..... to	another
36. 1 Peter	5:14	..... <u>Greet</u>	one	.....	another ....with a kiss of charity
37. 1 Peter	5:5	..... <u>Be Subject</u>	one	..... to	another
38. 1 John	1:7	..... <u>We Have Fellowship</u>	one	..... with	another
39. 1 John	3:11	..... <u>We Should Love</u>	one	.....	another
40. 1 John	3:23	..... <u>Love</u>	one	.....	another
41. 1 John	4:11-12	..... <u>If We Love</u>	one	.....	another
42. 1 John	4:7	..... <u>Love</u>	one	.....	another
43. 2 John	1:5	..... <u>Love</u>	one	.....	another

"DO NOT" DO THE FOLOWING TO ONE ANOTHER

1. Acts	7:26	..... <u>Why Do Ye Wrong</u>	one	..... to	another?
2. Romans	14:13a	..... <u>Do Not Therefore Judge</u>	one	.....	another
3. Romans	14:13b	..... <u>No Man Put A Stumbling Block In</u>	his	.....	brother's way
4. Romans	14:13c	..... <u>No Man Put An Occasion To Fall In</u>	his	.....	brother's way
5. 1 Corinthians	4:6	..... <u>No One Be Puffed Up For</u>	one	..... against	another
6. 1 Corinthians	6:7	..... <u>Do Not Go To Law</u>	one	..... with	another
7. Galatians	5:15	..... <u>Be Not Consumed</u>	one	..... of	another
8. Galatians	5:26a	..... <u>Not Provoking</u>	one	.....	another
9. Galatians	5:26b	..... <u>Not Envyng</u>	one	.....	another
10. Colossians	3:9	..... <u>Lie Not</u>	one	..... to	another
11. 1 Timothy	5:21	..... <u>Without Preferring (Without Partiality)</u>	one	..... before	another, ....doing nothing by partiality
12. James	4:11 <u>Speak Not Evil</u>	one of	another
13. James	5:9 <u>Grudge Not</u>	one against	another

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, July 4, 2021

1:30	Welcome & Prayer - Joey
6:44	<i>Do It Again</i>
6:44	<i>Do It Again</i>
0:45	Pray & Dismiss Kids - Peter
3:00	Bible Reading: Acts 11:12-36 - Derek
5:03	<i>Goodness Of God</i>
0:00	Report from Barakel - Jonah
3:00	A.C.T.S. & Prayer for America - Peter
25:00	Teaching: Connect to the Church - Peter
4:27	<i>the house of the lord</i>
1:30	Updates - Peter & Joey
0:30	Blessing - Joey

Updates:

- FAMILY CAMP
- Experience the Holy Land - 2022. Info? Talk to Kim or me. Go to News tab.
- Everything you need to know - FamousGod.com and social media.
- Connect card and contact us. In person and online.