

## HOW IMPORTANT IS THE CHURCH?

### 1 Timothy 3:15

**Introduction:** From reading the third chapter of *1 Timothy* some facts stand out about the church:

- The Church belongs to the living God.
- Church members are expected to "behave" in the Church.
- The Church contains the "truth" and we have no need for any other organization or institution to point out what is right or wrong, what is truth or what is not truth.

### I. WHAT GOD THINKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

1. The Church is the "salt" of the earth. (seasons, preserves). *Matthew 5:13*
2. The Church is the "light" of the world. *Matthew 5:14*
3. The Church is most valuable to mankind, it is the most important "organization" of all.  
*Matthew 13:45-46*

### II. IS THE CHURCH REALLY IMPORTANT?

1. The Church is the only "God-founded" institution in the world. *"Matthew 16:18*
2. God has claimed glory nowhere else but in His Church. *Ephesians 3:21*
3. The Church is the only institution for which Jesus Christ has any affection/concern. *Ephesians 5:25-27*
4. Only TRUE members of the Church have any claim on eternal life. *Hebrews 12:23*

### III. SOME THINK THAT THE CHURCH IS TOO EXPENSIVE

1. Some give "grudgingly" of their money. *2 Corinthians 9:7*
2. For some "stewardship" seems to be a boring subject. *Malachi 3:7-8*
3. A few imply that the "widow" who gave the tiny amount was a fanatic. *Mark 12:41-44*
4. The little man, "Zacchaeus" was a fool to give back so much, some imply. *Luke 19:8*
5. The only smart person was the rich, young ruler who refused to give away his wealth remark some. *Matthew 19:21-22*

### IV. THE CHURCH WAS IMPORTANT IN THE MIND OF JESUS

1. Jesus Christ came a long way to build it. *Philippians 2:7*
2. Jesus bought the Church with His own blood. *Acts 20:28*
3. Jesus calls for people to "suffer" for His/the Church. *Acts 9:16*

### CONCLUSION:

1. So, what is the Church to you? Take it or leave it?
2. Is the Church a regular part of your life?
3. If you are a Christian, then you are a part of the body of Christ and the Church is the "bride" of Jesus Christ.
4. Take a look at what your attitude toward your Church has been .... any changes needing to be made?