

# Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master  
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 6

The Week of November 10, 2024

*Articles of Faith\**

## **A Commitment to Truth**

1 Timothy 3:14-16

\*Please bring a copy of the proposed Articles of Faith to your Growth Group

In this passage Paul sets down the foundation for church conduct and identity. He describes the church as the "household of God" and "pillar and buttress of the truth," emphasizing its role in upholding God's truth in the world. Central to this truth is the mystery of godliness—Jesus Christ, who was revealed in the flesh, vindicated, and proclaimed. As we review the proposed Articles of Faith, this passage reminds us that sound doctrine matters because it shapes how we live and represent the essential message of the Bible with integrity and faithfulness.

### **OBSERVATION** (*What does the passage say and how does it say it?*)

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Underline *writing these things* to emphasize the purpose behind Paul's letter.
- Box *household of God* and *church of the living God* to highlight who we are as believers and where we belong.
- Draw a *house* around pillar and buttress of the truth as it signifies the church's foundation and role in supporting the truth.
- Write *behavior* in the margin by v. 15 as this verse defines how we ought to live within God's household.
- Put a cloud shape around *mystery of godliness* to show that this is a profound truth being revealed.
- Draw a † over each line about Jesus in v. 16 as a reminder of what it reveals about His Lordship and exalted status.
- Write *truth* in the margin by v. 15 as a reminder that the church is called to uphold the truth.

<sup>14</sup> I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, <sup>15</sup> if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. <sup>16</sup> Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated by the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed on in the world,  
taken up in glory.

**Summarize in one sentence the passage's central idea:**

*(What is the Apostle talking about and what does he say about what he is talking about?)*

**INTERPRETATION** *(What does the passage mean?)*

1. How does the concept of the Trinity shape our understanding of God's nature and relationship within Himself?
2. What role does God the Father play in the work of creation and providence, and how does this affirm His sovereignty over all things?
3. In what ways does the statement about the Holy Scriptures (Section II) point to the Bible's unique authority in guiding our faith and practice?
4. How is the atonement of Christ presented as both sufficient and necessary for salvation? How does this impact our understanding of the gospel?

**APPLICATION** *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. How can we develop a deeper relationship with each person of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in our personal lives and as a church?

2. Considering the teaching on the sacraments, how might we view baptism and the Lord's Supper as transformative in our faith journey and not just symbolic?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what ways can we as a church embody the compassion and grace mentioned in the section on sexuality and gender issues, while remaining faithful to God's Word?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. With the anticipation of Christ's return and the eternal state, how can we live with a sense of hope and urgency in sharing the gospel?

