The Church of the Living God
I Timothy 3:14-16

Introduction:
How we view the church will determine how we act
• If the church is a business…
• If the church is a country club…
• If the church is a ballgame…

But the church isn’t described that way in Scripture. Instead Paul uses three different pictures to describe the church that should influence the way we live.

I. What is the church?
I Timothy 3:14-15

1. The church is a family.
   “God’s household”
   • God is our Father.
   • Christ is our brother.
   • We are brothers and sisters and we will be for all eternity!

What are some characteristics of a healthy family?
• There is love.
• There is forgiveness.
• There is acceptance.
• We are committed to one another.
• We work together.
• We help one another.
2. The church is a spiritual gathering.
   It is the church of the living God.

The word for church in Greek means assembly or “called out ones”.

We have been called out of the world to live for God.

When we gather to worship, pray and fellowship together, God is in our midst.

If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth? Exodus 33:15-16

What makes the church different is the Presence of God in our midst.

3. The church is like a building.
   It is the means God has chosen to bring his truth to the world.
“It is the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

What does a pillar do? It holds things up.
We are to lift up Jesus Christ by our words and deeds and declare his truth to the world.

II. What is the truth we are to lift up? I Timothy 3:16

It is “the mystery of godliness”.
It is Jesus Christ.
It is the truth that has been revealed in the gospel about Jesus Christ.

Paul quotes an early Christian hymn. All six lines refer to Jesus.
1. He is true man.
2. He is true God.
3. He was seen by angels.
4. He was proclaimed among the nations.
5. He was believed on in the world.
6. He is exalted and glorified in heaven.

This we believe!
Conclusion:

1. The church is a family. We belong to God and we need one another.
2. The church is a spiritual gathering. God is in our midst. We have been called out of the world to live for him.
3. The church is the pillar and support of the truth. We are to lift up Jesus Christ and declare his truth to the world.