

Confidence In Christ's Church

(Ephesians 3:8-13)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of Trust Fall.
 2. It's hard to take a stand when you are all alone (1 Kings 18:21,39).
 3. Likewise, it's hard to take a stand for the church when so many people believe and practice something differently than what we believe and practice.
 4. The intent of this lesson is to strengthen your confidence in the church that Jesus established (Matthew 16:18).

I. The Church Is An Expression of God's Wisdom of God

- A. Of all the things God could have chosen to be an expression of his wisdom, he chose the church.
- B. (Ephesians 3:8-13).
 1. "Manifold" – variegated or multifaceted.
 2. We can have boldness and confidence (3:12).

II. Things In The Church In Which We Can Have Confidence

- A. It's Uniqueness.
 1. How often have we heard, "It doesn't matter where you go to church?"
 2. We live in a pluralistic and inclusive culture.
 3. (Matthew 7:13-14,21-23).
 4. (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4).
 5. Hasn't God, in the past, chosen one location for salvation?
 - a. The flood (Genesis 7).
 - b. The Passover (Exodus 12).
 - c. Jericho & Rahab (Joshua 2).
- B. It's Organization.
 1. Eldership (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23).
 2. Gender based roles (1 Corinthians 11, 14; 1 Timothy 2:8-15).
- C. Its Doctrine with which it has been entrusted.
 1. (1 Timothy 4:16).
 2. Baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
 3. Worship (John 4:24).

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, the church of Jesus Christ is equipped to accomplish everything God designed it to accomplish.
 2. You can have confidence in it!
 3. (Romans 3:4).
 4. However, make sure you're not just an admirer, a supporter, an attender, but rather a faithful member of the church.