

today's life and the people, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, will determine the application. But it is also my job to stand strong in the truth, and that is the job of every Christian.

“Stand in the truth” Just what does that mean? It doesn't mean using Scripture to attack, it doesn't mean to proclaim ourselves righteous and wear it like a badge. It means when I stand in the pulpit, what I share, what I preach, and teach is an accurate and correct interpretation and application of God's Word, and to show how it applies to today's life. It means I don't twist God's Word, take it out of context to make it mean what it does not.

At the same time the Word must be held above all else; we are God's creation and we are called not to bend to society where it counters what God's Word teaches. There is a fine line to be walked in obedience to God without driving people from the church. The church can't accept society as the drive for any form of morality where it violates what we know to be true.

While I was on active duty the commanding officer of NAS Norfolk called on a Naval instructor to develop a course on morality but demanded the Bible or any other religious source not be used as reference. Some of the old philosophers present moral issues, but they are truly few and weak.

So what are we to do? As I stated earlier every clergy, every teacher, every Christian must be ready to stand for what is right, what is true. If you were an employer and you hired a new employee, would you want someone who will sometimes do the job, or do it half right? I don't think so and God deserves followers with enough backbone to do the job.

**Series: Bible 3:16s**  
**Title: “1 Timothy 3-16”**

*<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. -- 1 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)*

**1. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE FLESH**

*<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14 (ESV)*

**2. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ BY THE SPIRIT**

*<sup>4</sup> And was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. -- Romans 1:4 (ESV)*

**3. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ BY ANGELS**

*<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, -- Luke 2:13 (ESV)*  
*<sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. -- Luke 24:4 (ESV)*

**4. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ AMONG THE NATIONS**

*<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” -- Matthew 28:16–20 (ESV)*

## From The Pastor's Study

### Insanity

I have spoken to a number of pastors and church leaders and I am absolutely amazed at some of the stands that some are taking concerning issues related to scripture and morality. We are called to make the Bible our reference for life, not as a rule book but as a guide.

Some time ago I was in a discussion with another pastor who was completely against capitol punishment but saw absolutely nothing wrong with abortion. I am not going to argue that here, but how can I justify not taking the life of the guilty while taking the life of the unborn or newborn.

This is only one of the issues I could discuss here but no particular issue is my point. My point is this, if the church can't be depended on to maintain particular standards then why are we surprised that chaos has taken over? If the church isn't going to follow and support moral standards based on scripture then where do we go? I'm not suggesting a legalistic standard that would be more like the Salem Witch Trials than the church of Jesus Christ.

The church, meaning every professed Christian, every clergy, every teacher in the church doesn't seem to have the backbone to stand for what we *know* to be right. Who is going to do it, the answer is simple...no one. Morality will be determined by people who are in the "I'm okay, you're okay" club.

I'm not judging anyone else's relationship with God, that is His job and I don't want it. My job is to relate scripture to

<sup>8</sup> *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* -- Acts 1:8

<sup>3</sup> *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.* -- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

### 5. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE WORLD

<sup>12</sup> *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.* -- John 1:12-13 (ESV)

### 6. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ IN GLORY

<sup>2</sup> *Until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.* -- Acts 1:2-3 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.* -- Acts 1:9 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> *Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.* -- 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (ESV)

<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.* -- 1 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)