

God's Chosen Instrument: the Church

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Timothy 3:14-15.
- B. The church has great power to change the world.
- C. Ephesus was a city given over to vulgarity, license and sexual immorality.

II. The church is a bulwark of truth.

- A. This contrasts to what the world views the church to be.
- B. The church is not a building or even a meeting in a building.
- C. The church is the people who have been born by the Spirit of God and have entered into a new lifestyle because of the presence of Jesus Christ in their midst.

III. The church is the house of God and has power.

- A. The real house of God is where God dwells. (Hebrews 4)
 - 1. God dwells within the believer.
 - 2. This shows great intimacy with God.
- B. All life and activity comes from God and the church is His instrument for change.
 - 1. Every church has within it a silent invisible power.
 - 2. This is resurrection power.
 - 3. The church has spiritual gifts.
 - 4. The church is supplied with powerful and nonviolent weapons—faith, hope, love, prayer and righteousness.

IV. The church bears the truth to a confused world.

Application questions:

- 1. What misconceptions does the world have about the church today?

2. What about the church itself shows God's great intimacy with it?

3. How does the church show God's power? How have you seen this personally work itself out?
