

THE CONCEPT OF CONDUCT

1 Timothy 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION

- A. We are bombarded with what our country has labeled “political correctness”.
 - 1. We are faced with “religious persecution” on many different fronts.
 - 2. How do we right the ship?
 - 3. Cecil May, Jr. from Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL shared in his monthly column in Gospel Advocate (Oct., 2015) the following: “...if our civilization is saved, it will not be by laws or elections. It will be by Christians preaching and living the gospel.”
- B. The thesis of 1 Timothy, is conduct in the church. 1 Tim. 3:15
- C. A kind of quality of life God wants His people to “lead”.
 - 1. “Life” is not seen in quantity, but in quality.
 - 2. The question is not: “How long...?”, but “How well...?”
 - 3. We are urged to “take hold” of the real life. 1 Tim. 6:12, 19
 - a. **Eternal life** in Christ Jesus, Romans 6:23.

I. THE TRANQUIL LIFE.

- A. Enjoys calm produced by absence of outward disturbances.
- B. We gain peace by becoming a Christian. Being a Christian promotes the tranquil life.
 - 1. “Peace with God” when we are justified. Romans 4:25–5:1-2
 - 2. We obtain the “peace of God”. Philippians 4:6-7
- C. This peace is not produced by material things. 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- D. Based on the **hope** within us. Hebrews 6:19

II. A QUIET LIFE.

- A. A calmness of spirit; internal peace, security, personal sense of well-being.
 - 1. It is used only here and in 1 Peter 3:4 [*wives with a **quiet** spirit*].
 - 2. John 14:27
 - 3. Philippians 4:6-7
- B. The church in Jerusalem and persecution.
 - 1. Acts 4–8:1-4
 - 2. Acts 9:31 – a time of peace, edification, growth...
 - 3. 1 Peter 4:12-19 – encouragement to persevere.

III. A GODLY LIFE.

- A. A true reverence and respect for God.
- B. Godliness is to be professed. 1 Timothy 2:10
- C. Godliness involves personal participation. 1 Timothy 4:7
 - 1. Contrast with godly exercise and bodily exercise.
 - 2. A two-fold promise associated with godliness: 4:8
 - a. Promise of life now.
 - b. Promise of life to come.
- D. Doctrine/teaching of Christ produces godliness.
 - 1. 2 Peter 1:3, “...His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and

godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and excellence.”

2. 1 Timothy 6:3
- E. Godliness with contentment is great gain. 6:6

IV. A LIFE OF DIGNITY [IMPORTANCE].

- A. Defined as respectability, uprightness and morality.
 1. A requisite for elders, 1 Timothy 3:4.
 2. Associated with a godly example, Titus 2:6-8.
- B. Seriousness of purpose.
- C. Make calling and election sure. 2 Peter 1:10
- D. Paul’s charge to Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 10:12, *“Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

CLOSING

- A. This ideal life is the “good” life. 1 Timothy 2:3
 1. “Good” is quality.
 2. “Good” is the way it fits into God’s great plan.
- B. Are you reaching for God’s ideal life?
 1. Paul would say, *“Not that I have already obtained it [spiritual maturity], or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”* ~Philippians 3:12