

The Church of the Living God: The Authority Structure of the Church Age: the Spoken Word, 1 Tim 4:15: How You Ought to Behave in the Local Church

8. This begins with the particle **πῶς, pōs**, translated “how” followed by the aoristic present of the verb **δεῖ, dei** translated “ought.”
9. The word *dei* carries the concept of inevitability. In the New Testament it is often associated with the divine decree, it can indicate future events and it therefore can be prophetic, and is used both positively and negatively.
10. The Scripture passages that use the word suggest this strong association with the divine decree, a fact further noted in:

Δεῖ [dei] designates an unconditional necessity; sentences with this verb have fundamentally an absolute, unquestioned, and often anonymous and deterministic character. In the New Testament statements with δεῖ are normally understood more or less as divine decrees. Thus God's will and nature are the norms of ethics and piety.¹

11. Here Paul indicates what is Timothy’s duty as pastor of the church at Ephesus and, by application, his congregation’s, and further, by application to all believers throughout the Church Age.
12. What Scripture presents as our duty – “how you ought” – indicates the proclamation of divine policy about how pastors and believers in general ought to behave.
13. The word *dei* carries the idea of inevitability which means that how we behave is evaluated by standards found in the divine decree. Timothy is learning about some of these policies.
14. The next verb is the present middle infinitive of **ἀναστρέφω, anastrephō**: “to conduct oneself”; “to behave.”

- present: Customary: denotes what habitually occurs, or may be reasonably expected to occur.
- middle: Direct: refers the results of the action directly to the agent, with reflexive force. This will be indicated in the translation by the pronoun “himself.”
- infinitive: Intended result: connotes the fulfillment of behavior decreed by divine revelation.

1 Timothy 3:15 - But if I am delayed, I write for the purpose that you may know how one ought to habitually conduct himself in the house of God ...

15. There is acceptable behavior in the house of God, which in this context refers to wherever believers congregate to study the Bible.

¹ Horst Balz and Gerhard Schneider, eds., *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990), 1:279.

16. The local church is an organization comprised of believers and unbelievers, while the universal church is an organism comprised of believers only and includes everyone who has believed in Christ throughout the history of the Church Age.
17. An excellent definition of the local church is provided by Cyrus Scofield in his *Scofield Study Bible*:

A local church is an assembly of professed believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, living for the most part in one locality, who meet together in His name for ... the Lord's Supper [Eucharist], worship [Bible study], praise [singing of hymns], prayer [public], fellowship [filling of the Holy Spirit], ... the ministry of the Word [teaching of doctrine], discipline [enforcement of church policy based on biblical guidelines], and the furtherance of the Gospel [evangelism and the support of missions and missionaries].²

² C. I. Scofield, ed., *The Scofield Study Bible: New American Standard* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1633n1:1.