

The Mystery of Godliness  
1 Tim 3.8-16  
Hennie Swart

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INTRODUCTION

Both in the church and in the world in general, one of our greatest needs is for good leadership, but what is good leadership?

- E.g. presidential consultation...
- E.g. Chris Lodewjik's statement.
- Sandton church plant...

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1 TIMOTHY 3.8-16 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup>In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

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1 TIMOTHY 3.8-16 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. <sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

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1 TIMOTHY 3.8-16 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup>Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, <sup>15</sup>if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

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1 TIMOTHY 3.8-16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh,  
was vindicated by the Spirit,  
was seen by angels,  
was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up in glory.

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OUTLINE

Godliness as

- Leadership requirement (3.8-13)
- General requirement (3.14-15)
- Revealed secret (3.16)

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CONCLUSION

The requirement for leadership, and membership, in the church is godliness – to be like God.

The mystery of godliness is that, in Jesus Christ, God became like us so that we could become like Him.

COMMUNION

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