

MYSTERY & GODLINESS

1 Timothy 3:16

Radically Ordinary

# 1 Timothy 3

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

# The problem of godliness

- There is such a thing as false godliness.
- Why be concerned with “true godliness?”

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

# What is the path to true godliness?

- The path of legalism
  - The focus is on rules
  - The rules are one-size-fits all
  - They seem intent on eliminating as much fun as possible from as many situations as possible.

# What is the path to true godliness?

- The path to true godliness is a *mystery*
- something not understood or beyond understanding : enigma
- the secret or specialized practices or ritual peculiar to an occupation or a body of people
- piece of fiction dealing usually with the solution of a mysterious crime
- **3**: profound, inexplicable, or secretive quality or character

# What is the path to true godliness?

- The path to true godliness is a *mystery*  
a religious truth that one can know only  
by revelation and cannot fully understand
- What is the secret that we need to gain  
insight into?

# 1 Timothy 3

<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.

# What becomes of godliness when mystery is removed

- Vitality is eclipsed by legalism
- Godliness is a burden to be endured rather than the path to *abundant life*
- Mystery requires us to rely on God  
legalism encourages us to trust and rely on the flesh and not the Spirit.



# So What

- Who is Jesus to you?
- Does God ask too much when he calls us to be “holy as the Lord our God is holy?”
- How does your knowledge of this “mystery” shape you and your pattern of living?