

## HOW DEAR AND TREASURED IS THE CHURCH

*"if I delay, [I write so that] you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).*

1. How dear and treasured is the church, With voices joined in praise and prayers,  
 2. En - trust - ed with the truth of God, Called out to make His gos - pel known,  
 3. God fash - ions us as liv - ing stones; As - sem - bled as His dwell - ing place.

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For God has made us one in Christ, To share our sor - rows, joys, and cares.  
 We bold - ly as His church pro - claim: There's grace and hope in Christ a - lone!  
 Though we were dead, He gives us life, Each soul a mir - a - cle of grace.

WORDS: Kenneth A. Puls, June 7, 2017  
 MUSIC from *Geistliche Lieder*, Wittenburg, 1543

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| <p>4. Built as a buttress of the truth,<br/>         A pillar rising to the sky,<br/>         God sets His church before the world,<br/>         His Word and name to magnify.</p>             | <p>6. Brought near to God by Christ's shed blood,<br/>         Loved and adopted as His own,<br/>         A household built upon the Word,<br/>         With Christ Himself the Cornerstone.</p>           |
| <p>5. To all the world we testify,<br/>         Our lives display in word and deed<br/>         The matchless worth of knowing Christ,<br/>         The boundless depth of our great need.</p> | <p>7. Built on this Rock, the church will stand,<br/>         The gates of hell shall not prevail,<br/>         All who are Christ's shall be raised up,<br/>         The Word of God will never fail.</p> |

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