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*Embracing Life in the Body of Christ / A Series in 1 Timothy*

## IF I SHOULD BE DELAYED

*1 Timothy 3:14-16*

By Josh McNall

**Introduction:** Holidays make us acutely aware of presence and absence. The examples are numerous: a child coming home from college, an empty seat around the table, a desire to be with loved ones that can or cannot be fulfilled.

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul is also navigating absence: he desires to be with his spiritual son (Timothy) as the church in Ephesus is facing turmoil. But he fears that his physical arrival will be delayed. Paul's solution is a heartfelt letter that calls us to rethink two crucial priorities: (1) the church's identity as God's household (not a business or a social club!), and (2) the central truth that binds us together (the incarnate Christ who came to us physically in our time of need).

### 1. Notes

**2. Idea**

**3. Takeaways**