

## **Church Life: The Church and Deacons**

### **1 Timothy 3:8-13**

#### **Introduction:**

**People follow leaders. Churches must ask before placing people into leadership, where will this person lead others? Will he lead them to the Cross or to an outhouse?**

**A. W. Tozer said, "A true and safe leader is likely to be one who has no desire to lead, but is forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and the press of the external situation."**

#### **1. Church Life: The \_\_\_\_\_ of a Deacon.**

- **Deacon - diakonos = “\_\_\_\_\_”**
- **Origin of Deacons - likely in Acts 6**

#### **2. Church Life: The \_\_\_\_\_ of a Deacon’s/Deaconess or Wive’s of Deacons Life**

- **\_\_\_\_\_ ; dignity = serious in mind, stately; refers to character. Root word is sebomai meaning “to venerate” or “to worship”**
- **Not double-\_\_\_\_\_ - referring to abstaining from saying one thing to one person and something else to another person. Speech should not manifest a duplicitous or manipulative motive.**
- **Not given to much wine - not \_\_\_\_\_ to; not one who sits long with the cup. We must think about Paul’s admonition in Romans 14:21 for today. No \_\_\_\_\_ with alcohol.**
- **No greed for \_\_\_\_\_ ; filthy lucre; sordid gain - must not use his office for making money.**
- **\_\_\_\_\_ Sound - must hold fast the faith with a conscience that does not accuse the person. (2 Corinthians 1:12)**

**Illustration: Some know the by-laws of the Church better than the Bible; we should abide by good regulations but the Bible supersedes all man-made documents.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ and Proved Before Serving - “to approve after testing” - this refers to the assessment of the potential deacon’s service by the Church.
- Above \_\_\_\_\_ - “not arraigned” or “unblamable”
- One-woman Men - \_\_\_\_\_ to their wives; speaks of moral \_\_\_\_\_ more than marital status.
- Godly \_\_\_\_\_; Manages Well Their Homes - this refers to everything that makes up a home. (Children, possessions, etc.)

### What About Women And The Office of the Deacon?

- \_\_\_\_\_ - serious lives; to be held in awe of their spiritual devotion
- Not malicious \_\_\_\_\_ - *diabolos* = “slander” and is sometimes translated “devil”
- \_\_\_\_\_ - self-controlled; sober in judgment.
- Faithful in all things - absolutely \_\_\_\_\_; able to be trusted

### 3. Church Life: The Deacon’s Eternal Reward For Service

- They obtain a \_\_\_\_\_ standing - “an elevated stand” - a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_
- “Boldness of \_\_\_\_\_” that builds confidence and assurance among the people they serve.

Conclusion:

If deacons cannot be trusted they ought not to be deacons at all, but if they are worthy of their office they are worthy of our confidence.

**Deacons...serve to care for the physical and financial needs of the church, and they do so in a way that heals divisions, brings unity under the Word, and supports the leadership of the elders. Without this practical service of the deacons, the elders will not be freed to devote themselves to praying and serving the Word to the people. Elders need deacons to serve practically, and deacons need elders to lead spiritually (Mark Dever and Paul Alexander).**

**1. No one can do \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. No one can please \_\_\_\_\_.**

With these two thoughts in mind, let me encourage you to live by this motto:

**3. I will do for \_\_\_\_\_ what I wish I could do for everyone.**

*“Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3:13, NLT)*