

**“Deacons Must be Dignified”, 1 Tim. 3:8-13**  
**Pastor Shawn Newberry, March 29, 2026**

I. The Servant King (Palm Sunday Connection)

- Jesus entered Jerusalem humbly (on a donkey), not in power
- The crowd expected **conquest**, but He came to serve and save
- Kingdom principle:  
Not built on dominance, but **sacrificial service**

Application:

We don't just praise Him—we follow Him by serving

II. The Calling of a Deacon = Servant

- “Deacon” = servant
- Rooted in Jesus' own mission

Being a servant is not a role—it is at the heart of following Jesus

III. The Character of a Deacon (1 Timothy 3:8–10)

A. Foundational Trait: Dignified (Honorable, Reverent)

Qualified by:

B. Negative Qualifications (What They Must NOT Be)

1. Not Double-Tongued
2. Not Addicted (Self-Controlled)
3. Not Greedy for Dishonest Gain

A servant must be trustworthy in speech, lifestyle, and stewardship

C. Positive Qualifications (What They MUST Be)

1. Hold the Faith with a Clear Conscience
2. Tested
3. Proven Blameless

IV. The Central Mark: Love

- 1 Corinthians 13 → Without love, we are nothing
- 1 John 4 → Love proves we know God

A Deacon Without Love = Nothing

V. Final Challenge

- Jesus is the Servant King
- Deacons are visible expressions of His gospel
- The church flourishes when servants:
  - Are humble
  - Are genuine
  - Are faithful

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate a King who came not in power, but in humility, riding on a donkey and ultimately giving His life to serve and save sinners. This servant-hearted mission defines the very nature of Christ's kingdom and calls His followers to live the same way. Deacons, as servants in the church, are called to reflect this heart through integrity, self-control, genuine faith, and proven character. Ultimately, the message is clear: we don't just praise the Servant King, we follow Him by becoming servants ourselves.

- Where in my life am I choosing comfort, recognition, or control instead of serving others like Christ?
- Am I the same person in every setting, or do I find myself speaking or acting differently depending on who I'm around?
- Are there any habits, appetites, or hidden struggles that could be controlling me or weakening my witness?
- Is my faith something I truly live with a clear conscience, or am I relying on outward appearance more than inward reality?
- Would those closest to me describe me as genuinely loving, patient, and servant-hearted? Why or why not?

### **What to Look for When Selecting Deacons and Deaconesses**

- **Proven Character Over Time**
- Has this person demonstrated consistent faithfulness, integrity, and spiritual maturity—not just recently, but over time?
- **Genuine Servant Heart**
- Do they already serve others humbly and willingly without needing recognition or a title?
- **Spiritual Integrity and Trustworthiness**
- Are they dependable in speech, self-controlled, and stewardship (especially with people, information, and resources)?