

**“To the Deaconesses, be Dignified”, 1 Tim. 3:11-13**  
**Pastor Shawn Newberry, April 12, 2026**

**I. The Character of Women in Service (v. 11)**

**“Women likewise must be...”**

**A. Dignified (Rooted in Christ)**

- True dignity is received, not manufactured
- Christ is the model (meek and lowly)

*Dignity is not strength on display, but a heart at rest in Christ*

**B. Not Slanderers (Guarded Speech)**

- “Slanderer” = accuser (same word used of the devil)
- Words reveal the heart (Matt. 15:18)

**Two ways to speak:**

- Tear down (accuse, assume, criticize)
- Build up (encourage, affirm, speak truth)

*A dignified woman speaks life, not accusation*

**C. Sober-Minded (Self-Controlled)**

- Not ruled by emotion or impulse
- Spirit-shaped composure
- Clear thinking, steady living

*Governed by truth, not driven by feelings*

**D. Faithful in All Things (Consistent Integrity)**

- Trustworthy
- Keeps commitments
- Serves for God’s glory, not recognition

*Faithfulness is who you are when no one is watching*

**II. The Character of Men in Service (v. 12)**

**“Managing their households well...”**

**A. Faithful in Marriage**

- “Husband of one wife” = **single-hearted devotion**

**B. Faithful in the Home**

**C. The Home as the Testing Ground**

- Character is revealed in everyday life:

*Private life validates public ministry*

**III. The Reward of Faithful Service (v. 13)**

**A. A Good Standing**

- Respect and trust within the church
- A life that carries weight and credibility

This passage teaches that those who serve as deacons are to be marked not by outward ability but by inward character shaped by the gospel. Women are called to a dignity rooted in Christ, expressed through controlled speech, steady minds, and faithful, consistent lives, while men are called to lead their homes with devoted, responsible, and protective care, proving their character in the ordinary rhythms of life. The home becomes the testing ground where true character is revealed, showing that private faithfulness validates public ministry. Ultimately, those who serve well gain both a respected standing among God's people and a deeper confidence in their faith, demonstrating that humble, Christ-centered service strengthens both the individual and the church.

Discussion Questions

- \* **Where does my private life (home, thoughts, habits) affirm—or contradict—the faith I profess publicly?**
- \* **How do my words reveal my heart?**  
Do I tend to build others up, or do I slip into criticism, assumption, or subtle accusation?
- \* **In what areas of my life am I reactive rather than sober-minded and Spirit-controlled?**  
What would it look like for Christ to govern those moments?
- \* **Am I truly faithful in the small, unseen responsibilities God has given me?**  
Or do I give more attention to what others notice?
- \* **How is serving others shaping my confidence in Christ?**  
Am I experiencing deeper faith through obedience, or am I holding back from serving?
- \* **Where am I tempted to seek dignity, identity, or affirmation from people instead of resting in who I am in Christ?**
- \* **How do I respond when I am given responsibility—do I embrace it with humility and courage, or avoid it through passivity or control?**
- \* **If those closest to me (family, friends, coworkers) described my character, what would they say—and what would that reveal about my walk with Christ?**