

House Rules
Functioning as the Church
Week 08: Leadership in the Church (Part 2) - Deacons

Scripture

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

What were the reasons for Paul's writing?

- To confront false teachers who had infiltrated the church (1 Timothy 1)
- To establish proper conduct in the churches at Ephesus (circular letter)
Prayer; Proper behavior of men and women; Proper leadership (elders/deacons)

Information (What They Need to Know)

Three Questions about the Office of Deacon...

What is a deacon?

Acts 6:1 (NLT) But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their *[Greek-speaking]* widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. **2** So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program *[serve tables]*. **4** Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

- *Deacon* is the Greek word *diakonos*, meaning servant or a waiter
- Those who serve the needs of the church family, especially concerning food and monetary needs (they focus on physical, mental, financial needs within the church)
Finance Team; North Canton Cares Food Pantry; Ministry Leaders
- Those who free up the pastors to be able to pray and teach the Word

Who can be a deacon?

Acts 6:3 (NLT) "And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. **4** Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

- Those the congregation "pushes forward" because they serve above and beyond
- Those confirmed by the pastors in response to the congregation
- Those qualified men or women

1 Timothy 3:11 (ESV) Their wives *[women]* likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.

Considerations for women deacons...

- Phoebe was considered a deacon (*servant* is the same Greek word for deacon)
Romans 16:1 (ESV) I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant [*deaconess*] of the church...
- *Likewise* (3:11) means women are serving *in the same way* as men
- Qualifications for deacons are similar for both men and women
- The word *wives* can also mean *women*
- If this is referring to qualifications of the deacons' wives, why weren't qualifications given for pastors' wives?
- Deacons don't teach, so this doesn't contradict earlier teaching

What are the qualifications of a deacon?

- Dignified (respectable and reverent)
- Not double-tongued (speaks trustworthy words)
- Not addicted to much wine (no reputation as a drinker; judgment isn't impaired)
- Not greedy for dishonest gain (content with what he possesses)
- Hold the mystery of faith with a good conscience (commitment to uphold the truth of the Scriptures)
- Proven blameless (no glaring sin; watched over by pastors)
- Husband of one wife (one-woman man)
- Good manager of his own home

Application (What They Need to Do)

Do you have the desire to serve?

God may have equipped you for the office of deacon.