



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Servants Who Strengthen the Church

Passage: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: The first deacons in Jerusalem were appointed because real needs in the church were being overlooked, and God would not allow His people to ignore those who were hurting. From the beginning, deacons were called to serve, not to rule. They are not spiritual overseers or decision-makers over the pastor, but faithful servants who help care for the church and support the ministry of the Word and prayer. In our text tonight, Paul reminds us that this is a serious and holy calling, with clear spiritual qualifications. As we come to this passage, we must understand that a deacon is not a position of control, but a role of Christlike service, marked by character, compassion, and a heart to meet real needs.

I. The Character of a Deacon Must Be Worthy of Respect (Verse 8)

When people observe his life, they recognize that he takes God, the church, and the needs of people seriously.

A deacon must be the kind of man whose word can be trusted.

A deacon's life should quietly communicate something powerful: that serving Christ and caring for His people is a serious and joyful privilege.



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II. A Deacon Must Be Spiritually Disciplined (Verse 8)

A man who serves the church must not be mastered by any appetite. His life should be marked by restraint, clarity of mind, and spiritual discipline.

A deacon must therefore live in such a way that nothing in his life undermines the credibility of the message he serves.

The concern of a deacon must never be personal gain but the glory of God and the good of His people.

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45)

III. A Deacon Must Be Sound in His Faith (Verse 9)

While deacons are primarily servants in the practical ministries of the church, they are still expected to be spiritually grounded men.

He is anchored in the truth of God’s Word. His beliefs are not shaped by the opinions of the world but by the revelation of Scripture.

A deacon’s life must match his doctrine. It is not enough for him to know the right things if his life contradicts what he believes.

IV. A Deacon Must Be Proven Before He Serves (Verse 10)

A man should already be doing the work of a servant long before he is called a deacon.

This principle protects the church in several ways:

A. It prevents the church from elevating someone too quickly.



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God cares more about the spiritual health of His church than the speed at which we fill an office.

B. The testing process protects the man himself.

Allowing a man's character to be proven over time ensures that he enters the office with the maturity needed to serve well.

V. The Character of a Deacon's Home Matters (Verses 11-12)

Because the work of a deacon often involves personal and sensitive situations, the character of his wife matters as well.

A woman involved in ministry alongside her husband must guard her speech carefully.

The ministry of a deacon will be strengthened or weakened by the character of the home that stands behind him.

When a man leads his home with love, discipline, and faithfulness, it becomes evidence that he is prepared to serve God's people.

VI. Faithful Service Brings Spiritual Reward (Verse 13)

As men serve Christ and watch Him work through their obedience, their faith grows stronger. They see firsthand that the Lord is faithful to His promises.

As we obey Christ and see Him use our lives to help others, our faith becomes more settled and more confident.

These qualifications are not only a description of what deacons should be; they are a picture of mature Christian character.



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Conclusion: When we step back and look at this passage, the message is clear: the office of a deacon is not about position or recognition, but about Christlike service. These qualifications are not about skill, but about character. We should thank God for the deacons He has given us, honor the office by understanding it biblically, and commit ourselves to living with a servant's heart. Not everyone is called to be a deacon, but every believer is called to serve. And when a church embraces that, it reflects something truly beautiful, the servant heart of Jesus Christ.

