

Appendix: The Deacons Wife

1. The author states that, “how people view the office of deacon will be a significant factor in interpreting who the *gynaikes* of verse 11 are.” Explain how the authors view of the identity and role of the deacon affects his interpretation of the women of verse 11.
2. Explain the problem that the Greek word *gynaikes* and 1 Timothy 3.11 creates for the Bible translator or commentator. How does your Bible handle the translation of this term? Do you agree or disagree with your Bible translation?
3. In verse 11, Paul uses the Greek word for wives rather than a more specific title, for women deacons. As best as you can, explain why the author sees this as a problem.
4. All the arguments the author uses can be answered by counter arguments. How would you refute the authors interpretation of verse 11?
5. Explain the point of the argument of the placement of *gynaikes* in the midst of male deacons. How would you review the authors point?
6. Reading in the section, “the omission of any material or family requirements” see page is 161-162 in the text. What is the point of the writers argument and why does he make a big point of this argument? How would you refute this argument?
7. In what ways are the five qualifications for the male deacons and the four qualifications for the women similar and dissimilar? List them.
8. How would you refute those who argue that the similar qualifications of the women in verse 11 with the male deacons in versus 8-10 demonstrate that they are women deacons?
9. Another point of contention is the interpretation of Romans 16.1. Phoebe is called a *diakonos*.
 - a. What problems do all interpreters face when trying to interpret the term *diakonos* in Romans 16.1?
 - b. What is your suggestion for solving this interpretive problem?
10. One key criticism of the wives of the deacons view is the omission of the pronoun (their) or the article (the) this is a legitimate criticism.
 - a. How does the author answer this objection?
 - b. Do you think the author has adequately answered this criticism? Explain.
11. Another objection to the wives of the deacons view claims that the continent and particularly the grammatical structure of the passage requires that the woman a verse 11 to be equally office holders with the male deacons.
 - a. How does the author answer the above objection?
 - b. Do you think the author has adequately answered this objection? Explain.
12. A final objection asks, if the deacons wives must be of a certain godly character, should not such requirements be even more necessary for the elders wives? Some argue that the absence of a list of specific qualifications for the elders wives in versus 2-7 is another key indicator that verse 11 refers to women deacons.
 - a. How does the author answer this objection?
 - b. Do you think the author has adequately answered this objection? Explain.

13. What do you think are the two strongest arguments the author presents in the appendix in favor of the wives of the deacons view? Explain your answer.
14. What do you think is the strongest objection to the wives of the deacons view? Explain your answer.