

Chapter 7

1. What has been your interpretation of 1 Timothy 3.11 before you read this chapter?
2. The author lists five views of the identity of the woman in 1 Timothy 3.11. In your own words, briefly list and explain these five views, demonstrating that you understand each one.
3. Starting with the second paragraph, reread the first section of chapter 7 (pages 119-120 in the text). The author is making a personal plea to readers who might be offended by his view that women are not deacons. What are his points in these paragraphs? Be specific.
4. Why do you think Christians should debate but not divide over the identity of the woman referred to in 1 Timothy 3.11 (women, women deacons, deaconesses, helpers, wives of deacons)?
5. What does it mean that the deacons wife is to be *dignified*, or as the NIV states, *worthy of respect*? If a person is deemed worthy of respect, what does that tell you about the person?
6. Part of the Old Testament holiness code for living prohibit slander and hate (Lev 19.2, 16-18).
 - a. From this passage, what specific behaviors does God prohibit among his people? Be sure you can explain each one of these vices to a prospective deacon.
 - b. From this passage, what specific behaviors does God require of his people?
 - c. Why do you think these Levitical instructions are essential to the spiritual well-being of the local church today?
7. A deacons wife must not have a reputation as a slanderer. If she does have such a reputation, what problems would this cause for the churches deacons and elders?
 - a. What kinds of destructive problems do slander and malicious talk create in a church? List all you can think of.
8. Describe a person who is sober minded. Why is being sober minded and necessary character quality for a deacons wife?
9. How would you describe the opposite character traits of sober minded?
10. A deacons wife is to be faithful in all things. How would you identify a woman who is in fact faithful in all things? Be specific; give an example.
11. List some practical ways in which a deacons wife can positively influence her husband's thinking and ministry. List some ways a deacons wife can negatively influence her husbands thinking in ministry.
12. Why is it important to be unified in our understanding of 1 Timothy 3.11? How will you respond if our church and fellow leaders promote a view contrary to your own?