

## THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

### (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

#### A. The STRUCTURE of the LOCAL CHURCH. (Philippians 1:1)

#### B. The ORIGINATION of DEACONS. (Acts 6:1-7) The term “deacon” [diakonos] means servant.

It is used unofficially of anyone who serves (1 Cor. 3:5; 2 Cor.3:6; Ephesians 6:21; Rom.16:1), or officially of designated believers who serve in the office of a deacon (1 Tim.3:8-13). Within the structure of a local church, there are deacons who are designated / appointed believers who serve the Lord and others under the authority and direction of the elders, yet they do so to the benefit and blessing of the congregation.

#### C. THE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS on the QUALIFICATIONS for DEACONS.

1. Qualifications for deacons are very \_\_\_\_\_, yet \_\_\_\_\_ from the qualifications of elders. Elders must be \_\_\_\_\_, but not deacons. Elders have more qualifications listed perhaps because they have greater responsibility.
2. Elders are to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the church, while deacons serve \_\_\_\_\_ the elders. The deacon’s role is to address various \_\_\_\_\_ and may be involved in overseeing certain \_\_\_\_\_ to the congregation, thus assisting and allowing the elders to maintain their God-given priorities.
3. The qualifications for a deacon are \_\_\_\_\_, not optional. (1 Timothy 3:8)
4. These listed qualifications stress \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, not giftedness.
5. The overarching qualification is \_\_\_\_\_, not perfection. Blameless means that his character is sound in quality and cannot be legitimately criticized.
6. The role of a deacon is available only to \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Timothy 2:9-15)
7. The role of a deacon involves being officially recognized as a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord in the ministry of the local church.

#### D. The SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS for Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-12)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - He is serious in purpose in serving the Lord with a dignified character worthy of respect.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - His language has verbal integrity and consistency, so he tells the truth and does not lie or inflate or deflate the truth. His words can be trusted instead of discrediting him.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - He has self-control with alcohol.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - He is not motivated by power and money.
5. “*Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscious*”— He knows and holds firmly to his \_\_\_\_\_ with a good conscience and does not depart from it.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ - A potential deacon should be evaluated and pass the test of his sound doctrine, godly character, and faithfulness. Relative spiritual maturity is necessary in any leadership role, and everyone needs adequate time to grow and be known within his local church before being appointed as a deacon. Who does the evaluation? Why is it important to not do this hastily?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ - His Christian walk must be without legitimate unaddressed criticisms of character, behavior, or doctrine. There must be nothing disqualifying in his life. (1 Tim. 3:10)
8. When married, the deacons' "*Wives must be...*" (3:11)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ - dignified with character worthy of respect due to her serious purpose & godly spirituality in serving the Lord.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ - she does not use her tongue for sinful and hurtful purposes such as lying, gossip & slandering. She is verbally self-controlled.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ — she does not operate on her emotions but is clear-headed and principled in her thinking and actions.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ - characterized by being faithful or trustworthy in everything she does.

The deacon's (and pastor's) wife must also be of high moral character and faithfulness, or she will disqualify him as a leader. In the local church, a deacon's wife will be known and involved. Her character cannot be overlooked. She can be a great blessing or a blister, as she can be a disqualifying problem for her husband and a stumbling block to others.

9. "*Husbands of one wife*" - He is \_\_\_\_\_ to his present wife. (3:12)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ — He is a good leader / manager of his children and household. If he cannot rule well in his own home, then he should not lead in the local church. His home is measurement of his leadership abilities.

\* What about a "deaconess" in the local church?

- 1) "diakonos" – used \_\_\_\_\_ of Phoebe in Romans 16:1.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the church until much later in church history.
- 3) This doesn't mean you \_\_\_\_\_ certain ladies who serve in the local church by the title of deaconesses as long as they are serving others but not ruling over men.

#### **E. The PRACTICAL BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS for Serving the Lord and Others as FAITHFUL DEACONS. (1 Timothy 3:13)**

1. Faithful deacons who serve with godly lives and faithful service will earn for themselves \_\_\_\_\_ as the people of the local church will see him as a great blessing in the assembly.
2. Faithful deacons with godly lives & faithful service will earn for themselves \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith. Their faithful service to Jesus Christ and the local church will give them boldness and credibility when given the opportunity to proclaim the truth of the Word of God.

\* Some closing applications: