

THE ROLE OF DEACONS IN THE CHURCH

Lesson 6

Review: *We have examined both the Biblical Qualities and Biblical View of the initial deacons of Acts 6. We then examined the guiding parameters of our Constitution and By-laws which are binding. We followed that by examining a few of the more contested qualifications listed in I Tim. 3:1-13. We will now give our attention to the remainder of the Biblical Qualifications found in Scripture.*

I. DETERMINING THE QUALIFIED BY THEIR QUALITIES - Acts 6:3

- A) Men of honest report - a reputation widely TRUSTED and RESPECTED
- B) Full of the Holy Ghost - consistent in spiritual GROWTH and OBEDIENCE
- C) Full of wisdom - known for a mature JUDGMENT and FAITH

II. DISECTING THE QUALITIES INTO QUALIFICATIONS - I Tim. 3:8-13

- A) Men that are examples of being FAITHFUL - vs. 10
 - 1) Consistency in their PRACTICES
 - 2) Consistency in their PROGRESS
 - 3) Consistency in the PERCEPTION
- B) Men that are examples in leading their FAMILIES - vs.11-12
 - 1) Wives are to reflect their INFLUENCE - vs. 8 / 11
 - a) Both are to be highly RESPECTED for their character - grave
 - b) Both are to have the REPUTATION for discretion
not double-tongued, not slanderers
 - *A disciplined tongue reflects a disciplined life - James3:1-2
 - *A defiled tongue reflects a defiled life (the whole body) - James 3:6
 - c) Both are to RESPOND with a watchful self-control - sober
 - *Aware of the Lord's testimony
 - *Aware of one's own testimony
 - *Aware of my church's testimony
 - d) Both are to be REGARDED as dependable and faithful
 - 2) Children are to reflect their INSTRUCTION - Eph. 6:4
 - a) Training that reflects a nurtured RELATIONSHIP
 - b) Training that reflects the needed REPROOFS

...DISECTING THE QUALITIES INTO QUALIFICATIONS - / Tim. 3:8-13

C) Men that are examples of living out the FAITH - vs. 8d, 9, 13

1) Their faith is evident in their attitude towards WEALTH - vs. 8d

a) They view wealth not as a TREASURE, but a TOOL

b) They seek to be STEWARDS, not STINGY

2) Their faith is evident in their attitude towards the WORD of God - vs. 9

They diligently study the Bible in order to...

a) Learn DOCTRINE - II Tim. 3:16-17

b) Rightly DIVIDE - II Tim. 2:15

c) Faithfully DEMONSTRATE - I Tim. 3:9

d) Build DISCERNMENT - Heb. 5:11-14

*Deacons must discern needs

*Deacons must discern situations

*Deacons must give discerning counsel

e) Comprehend the DEEPER truths - I Cor. 2:9-14

f) Stir up their DEVOTION - Psalm 119:97-104

3) Their faith is evident in their attitude towards WITNESSING - vs. 13

a) There is a growing BURDEN

b) There is a growing BOLDNESS