

THE ROLE OF DEACONS IN THE CHURCH

Lesson 3

Review: *We examined the both the process and the prerequisites of the first deacons installed in the early church. Acts chapter 6 gave us the overall character markers that should be considered: men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. By the time Paul wrote Timothy, these three qualities were more distinctly expounded and expanded.*

I. DEACONS WERE DESIGNED TO BE SERVANT LEADERS - Acts 6:3

- A) Defined by DESCRIPTION - we may appoint over this business
- B) Defined by DEFINITION - "diakonos" = servant / minister
- C) Defined by DEMONSTRATION - Mark 9:35
- D) Defined by DESIGNATION - deacon denotes one so ordained
 - 1) The TESTIMONY should be sought by all
 - 2) The TASK / TOIL should be shared by all
 - 3) The TERM cannot be applied to all
 - a) There is an accountability of EXTENSION - of the pastor
 - b) There is an accountability of EXPECTATION - of example
 - c) There is an accountability of ADMINISTRATION - for the work
 - d) There is the accountability of IDENTIFICATION - for the church

II. DEACONS WERE DESIGNED TO BE "LIKEWISE" SERVANTS - 1 Timothy 3:1-13

- A) This passage creates a DISTINCTION of the offices
- B) This passage conveys a DUPLICATION in the offices
 - 1) likewise - "hosautos" = in the same way; after the same like manner
 - 2) even so - "hosautos"
- C) This passage communicates DIFFERENTLY for the offices
 - 1) These differences don't imply EXCLUSIVITY
 - a) Can deacons be strikers and brawlers while pastors cannot?
 - 2) Any distinction would be in the particulars of MINISTRY
 - a) Pastoring requires teaching, therefore they must be apt to teach
 - b) Pastoring requires scriptural leadership skills that others will follow

SYNOPSIS: *Deacons are to be men of known spiritual maturity and testimony that would be quickly and easily identified as being accountable to serve the church as an extension of the pastor's ministry by serving in the same grace and supporting the same goals.*

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II. QUALIFIED BY BOTH THE BIBLE AND THE BY-LAWS - Part 2 - I Timothy 2-3

A) Why deacons (and pastors) must be a MAN

1) Contextual EMPHASIS - I Tim. 3:1-13

2) Historical EVIDENCE

3) Scriptural EXHORTATION - I Tim. 2:9-12 / I Cor. 14:23-38

4) Spiritual EXPLANATION - I Tim. 2:13-14 / Prov. 30:17

a) God's CREATIVE order

b) God's PROTECTIVE order

Note: Again, this does not refute our equality in Christ, but merely distinguishes the different roles God has ordained for men and women. Women can do anything within the church except hold the office of pastor or deacon, and/or teach or exercise authority over men.

B) Why deacons (and pastors) must be a "one woman MAN" - Article 2

1) This does not make marriage a PRE-REQUISITE - I Cor. 7:7-9

a) Paul pastored as a SINGLE

b) Paul was alert to the temptation of SIN

2) This does not make reference to POLYGAMY

3) This does not make divorce beyond PARDON

a) This refers to the PICTORAL example of leadership

b) This refers to the PRACTICAL example of leadership

c) This infers to the PERSONAL example of leadership

**It is clear that one should not have the testimony of being unfaithful, forward, or flirtatious - but that his fidelity is beyond reproach"*

C) Why deacons (and pastors) should abstain from harmful intoxicants - "not given to wine"

1) It was used MEDICALLY - I Tim. 5:23

2) It was diluted EXTENSIVELY - Prov. 23:29-32

3) It promotes SENSUALITY - Prov. 23:33-35

4) It was prohibited for those in AUTHORITY - Prov. 31:3-5

5) It negatively affects our TESTIMONY - Rom. 14:21