

- ii. This morning we will submit the names of men for the office of deacon
- iii. I would like to read the qualifications for that office

1 Timothy 3:8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, V.9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. V.10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. V.11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. V.12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. V.13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

1. God has given a clear picture of how a church is to be governed / led
2. There is **no** record of a church being led by majority rule / congregationally led
 - a. Church business meetings as many of us have seen are not good!
 - b. We received several favorable comments about the meeting we had last Sunday night
3. The only vote I know of in N.T. Church is found in **Acts**
4. This particular event appears to be an emergency event
 - a. It is often thought this is related to the first deacons
 - b. It may or may not be true b/c the qualifications are different

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the ¹Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.
²So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.
³Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.
⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the

ministry of the word.”

5. So then – how is a church governed?
6. There appear to be 2 active offices in N.T.
 - a. #1. Deacons
 - b. #2. Elders
7. The qualifications for being a deacon were listed
8. The word “deacon” comes from the verb meaning to serve
9. διάκονος – noun – servant
10. διακονέω – verb – to serve
 - a. It means “servant”
 - b. Any servant is a deacon in the broad sense
11. But there is an office of deacon is a special category
12. It is very similar to the situation w/ apostles
 - a. The word apostle means “one who is sent”
 - b. But there is the office of an apostle
13. The same thing applies even to an angel
 - a. But the word means messenger – so in the larger sense a person can be an angel
 - b. There is the creature called angel
14. Deacons are special people who are called to serve the body of Christ
 - c. They take care of the physical part of serving
 - d. The heat & a/c units don’t just run – the lights don’t just work – the doors aren’t just open on their own – the deacons do it
 - e. The bus & van keep working – donuts show up – etc.
15. There are definite qualifications for deacons

1 Tim.3:8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,

1. “must be men of dignity”
 - a. Inviting reverence
2. “not double-tongued”
 - a. Saying one thing and meaning another, and
 - b. Making different representations to different people about the same thing

3. "not addicted to much wine"
 - a. Abstinence is not required unless it causes weaker brother to stumble
4. "not fond of sordid gain"
 - a. By disgraceful means
 - b. Insatiable appetite for wealth

V.9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

1. "holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience"
 - a. Be able to grasp spiritual truths – and live accordingly

V.10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

1. "These men must also first be tested"
 - a. Watched for a period of time

V.11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

1. "Women"
 - a. It either means wife of deacon
 - b. Or deaconess

V.12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.

1. "Deacons must be husbands of only one wife"
 - a. It is a description of the man
 - i. One woman sort of man
2. "good managers of their children and their own households"
 - a. It is talking about children still under their roof
 - b. Good family managers – spiritual leader of his house

V.13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

1. "those who have served well as deacons obtain...a high standing"
 - a. Respect in the body of believers
2. "great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus"
 - a. God is pleased w/ their service