

Deacon Qualifications

1 Timothy 3: 8 – 13

21 August 2022 A.M.

Series: Conduct in God's House

1 Timothy 3: 8 - 13

⁸ Deacons likewise *must* be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹ *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. ¹¹ Women *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. 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.

Deacons must be; Vv. 8 -10

- Men of dignity – (σεμνοῦς) Serious in mind and character.
- Three negatives – a Deacon must not be;
 - Double tongued – a hypocrite in speech.
 - Not addicted to much wine- same for the Pastor.
 - Not fond of sordid gain – also like the Pastor.
- Holding to the mystery of faith with clear conscience.
- Tested first, then service.
- Beyond Reproach – Like the Pastor.

Likewise Women. V. 11.

- The Deacon's wife, or deaconesses?
- They too must be dignified like deacons.
- Not malicious gossips (διαβόλους) the primary term for Satan.
- Temperate – clear minded and sober.
- Faithful in all things – a general statement of total faithfulness to God in service and lifestyle.

More for the Deacon. Vv. 12 – 13.

- Husband of one wife – same requirement on Pastor.
- Manages own household well – same as Pastor
- The great reward for the deacon(ess).
 - Obtain a high standing for themselves.
 - Obtain a great confidence in the faith in Christ Jesus.

Conclusion

- We are all called to serve and in the sense of service we are therefore deacons even if we do not have the office of deacon.
- God has designed in His church for the office of deacon for both men and women to assist the Pastor in practical ministries.
- Like all officers in the church God requires the highest moral and spiritual character qualities, to be demonstrated prior to receiving that office.