

## Qualifications of Deacons—1 Timothy 3:8-13

### CONTEXT

1. Paul writing to Timothy: false teaching in Ephesus
2. Jesus is the Head of the Church. He is the perfect Shepherd/Pastor and Bond-Servant (Phil 2:7)
3. Two officers of Church: Elders and Deacons (1 Tim 3:1, 8)
4. Description of a Deacon (Acts 6:1-7): a spiritually mature man who serves as a minister of mercy to those in need: to the sick, the friendless, and any in distress; maintains the finances of the church; and, cares for the property of the church. *Diakonos* (used 29 x's) means anyone who serves or ministers, but is also used in Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8 for a servant-officer (deacon).

### I. Paul's Concern: qualified leadership (1 Tim 3:15)

- A. The glory, honor & reputation of our Lord
- B. A sacred trust
- C. Objective qualifications needed to test subjective desires

Principle: Our attitudes & conduct before a watching world is critical.

### II. Specific qualifications for deacons (1 Tim 3:8-13)

- A. Men of integrity (1 Tim 3:8-9)
  1. dignity: worthy of respect
  2. not double-tongued: integrity of speech
  3. not addicted to much wine: above reproach with alcohol
  4. not fond of sordid gain: financial integrity
  5. holding to the mystery of the faith: life and doctrine match
- B. Qualifications demand testing (1 Tim 3:10)
- C. Qualifications of wives of deacons (1 Tim 3:11)
  1. *gynaikas* – can mean women or wives (1 Tim 3:12)
  2. issue of women officers (1 Tim 2:9-10)
  3. Book of Church Order, 9-7, elders are encouraged *to select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need.*
  4. 4 qualifications of wives or those who assist deacons

- D. Family requirements for deacons (1 Tim 3:12)
  1. Marital fidelity: a one-woman man
  2. Good managers of the home: good dads

Principle: The critical issue is always the heart.

### III. Reward of faithful deacons (1 Tim 3:13)

- A. Spiritual influence in the church
- B. Greater confidence before God & the church

Principle: ministry is God's potter's wheel to grow us up & in

### APPLICATIONS:

1. What do your heart attitudes and actions communicate to a watching world?
2. Where is there hypocrisy in your own life?
3. What ministry are you involved so God can grow you up & in?
4. PRAY FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS:

#### ELDERS

Ford Bowers (10)  
Poochie DeMars (10)  
Jack Stewart (10)  
Bruce Bosco (11)  
Mark Gende (11)  
Don Montgomery (11)  
Steve Barton (12)  
Cam Crawford (12)  
Don Tyler (12)

#### DEACONS

\*Mark Morvay (11)  
John Butler (10)  
Weston Curtis (10)  
David Inman (10)  
Jason Wessinger (10)  
Jimmy Denning (11)  
Garnette Bouknight (11)  
Herb DeCuers (11)  
Craig Malone (11)  
Bill McMillin (11)  
Pete Rhoden (11)  
Chris Ruffin (11)  
Dan Berglund (12)  
Rhett Corley (12)  
Moe Dunn (12)  
Scott Johnson (12)  
Andy Murray (12)  
Tommy Takach (12)  
Steve Thomas (12)  
Chris Waites (12)  
Jim Wilkins (12)