



Deacons -- Their Qualifications and Work

I Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons → Introduction

- Matthew 20:25-28 → 25 But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.
- 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your **minister**;
- 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:
- 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to **minister**, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Deacons → Introduction

- **Matthew 23:11** → But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
- **John 12:26** → If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honor.
- **I Corinthians 3:5** → Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (cf. I Timothy 4:6)
- **Philippians 1:1** → Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
- **I Timothy 3:8** → Likewise *must* the deacons...

Deacons → Introduction

- Acts 6:1-6 → Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.
- 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.
- 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.
- 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

I Timothy 3:8-13

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- 8 Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.
- 11 Even so *must their wives be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.
- 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.
- 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The Qualifications:

- **Grave** → respectable, honorable of serious demeanor (not minus a sense of humor or joyless) but one who takes serious things seriously and is worthy of respect.
- Philippians 4:8 → Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

The Qualifications:

- ***Not double tongued*** → not two-faced (NET); or insincere. Does not say one thing to one person and something else to another. Deals straight forward with the facts. Honest.
- ***Not given to much wine*** → (addicted to much wine –NET) Is not a drunkard. Does not speak to some “allowable” consumption level of intoxicants. (cf. I Peter 4:3; Proverbs 23:29-35)
 - I Peter 4:3 → For we *have spent* enough of our past [a]lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

The Qualifications:

- ***Not greedy of filthy lucre*** → “not greedy for money” (NKJV, NRSV). Describes one who is not covetous (Colossians 3:5); whose life is not given to things. (Luke 12:15). Will not seek to attain material things by unscrupulous means. (I Timothy 6:10)
- ***Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience*** → “Mystery” – the gospel now revealed. (cf. I Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 3:3-5) Knows the word of God and is committed to keeping/obeying it. Has a clear conscience that comes from obeying the word of God.

The Qualifications:

- ***Let these also first be proved*** → By their lives, service and willingness to work, these show themselves fit for such an appointment. These by their lives are to be known spiritual quantities.
- ***Blameless*** → “Let them serve as deacons if they are found blameless.” (NET) Beyond reproach. Not sinlessly perfect (none would qualify); but one against whose life no accusation can be successfully lodged. One who consistently endeavors to conform their life to the word of God. (cf. I Corinthians 1:8; Colossians 1:22)

The Qualifications:

- ***Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things***
→ The deacon is to be married to a godly woman, whose manner of life is demonstrated by gravity, sincerity, sobriety (self-control) and faithfulness.
- ***“...The husbands of one wife...”*** → a scripturally married man. One is more than zero and less than two. Faithful and devoted to his one wife.

The Qualifications:

- ***“...ruling their children and their own houses well.”*** → Manages well his own household. Is the leader in his home; Guides and cares for it well. (cf. Ephesians 5:22-6:4)
- **Conclusion:** For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (I Timothy 3:13)