

The Work and Qualifications of Deacons

I Tim. 3:8-13

- The Importance of Deacons
 - God appointed office, function in the local church.
 - For the local church to be scripturally “organized”.
 - Vital responsibilities of service to be performed for the local church to function as God would have it to.
 - Need for men who are humble, committed and qualified to serve as deacons in each local church.

- The Work of Deacons
 - Is not the work of the elders, who have the responsibility to...
 - Oversee → I Pet. 5:2
 - Rule → Heb. 13:17
 - Feed, tend, shepherd → Acts 20:28-32
 - Watch for souls → Heb. 13:17
 - Guard against false teachers → Acts 20:29-31
 - Make decisions to see that God’s word is faithfully fulfilled in the local church.
 - The word from which “deacon” is rendered in our English versions occurs about 30 times in the N.T.
 - It means servant, minister, one who executes the instructions of another.
 - Most of the time occurs in a general sense. (Matt. 20:26; 23:11; John 2:5).
 - It is used in I Tim. 3 and Phil. 1:1 in a specific sense denoting those who are specially appointed servants (men, who meet qualifications) in the local church to perform specific needed functions.
 - Acts 6:1-4 → **6** Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- The Qualifications of Deacons
 - Not arbitrary.
 - Given because the men selected need to possess these qualities, and these qualities equip them to do their work.
 - The Qualifications of Deacons – I Tim. 3:8-13...
 - “Grave” → reverent, dignified, worthy of respect.
 - Takes serious things seriously, and lives in such a manner to have the respect of others.
 - “Not double-tongued” → Consistent in word, honest, dependable.
 - Does not give one version of the story to one person and a different one to another.
 - Not a hypocrite
 - “Not given to much wine” → not addicted to much wine;
 - Does not speak to an allowable level of alcohol consumption.
 - Is not a drunkard.
 - “Not greedy of filthy lucre” → is not a covetous person, money and material things are not the first priority.
 - Will not seek to attain material things by unscrupulous means.
 - “Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience” → Knows, is committed and lives the gospel.
 - Will not be easily swayed by false teaching.
 - Has a clear conscience that comes from consistent obedience.
 - “Let these also first be proved”, → by their lives these have passed tests, have proven themselves.
 - Have persevered in the trials, circumstances of serving God.
 - Are seen as those who are already workers in the kingdom of God. Shown a willingness to work.
 - “Let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless”, →
 - Not perfect. No one would be qualified.
 - Beyond reproach. Earnestly endeavors to conform manner of life to God’s word.
 - “Even so must their wives be...”

- Grave → truly respectable
- Not slanderers → gossips, whisperers
- Sober → temperate, self-control
- Faithful in all things → wife, mother, member of the body
- “The husbands of one wife”, → a scripturally married man
 - One is more than zero and less than two.
 - Devoted to his one wife, not a “womanizer”.
- “Ruling their children and their own houses well”, → Good managers of their children and their own households.
 - He is the leader in his home
 - He guides and cares for it well
- “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.”