

# Deacon Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:8-13

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 3:13 “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.”

## Introduction:

**READ:** 1 Timothy 3:8-13 “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.”

HOSAUTOS.....likewise/In like manner

-As Elders must be men who meet certain criteria, ‘in like manner’ the Deacon must be qualified in all respects mentioned in this category.

-This does not mean the Deacon’s qualifications include the Elder qualifications.

-The likewise is connected to the “Must be”

## Lesson:

### I. Men of Dignity

-Grave in the Greek is “sem-nos” meaning.....Honorable

\*Grave is used in Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

\*This is the company this word keeps

\*The character of the deacon must be one of respect and honor.

-(Kittle “Theological Dictionary of the NT) Gives us the idea of Seriousness and worthy of respect

- (Thayer) Further adds, having the attribute of God...
  - i.e. being lofty in calling
- Some folks are often prone to be light-hearted and irresponsible
  - Procrastinating
  - Duct tape and bailing wire mentality
  - Whatever it takes to get by
- \*But, the Deacon is to be:
  - Dependable and trustworthy
  - Phillips Bible says .....Men of serious outlook and sincere conviction

## II. Not double tongued

- Have you seen anything with two tongues.....snake
- Here this means not telling a different story
  - Saying one thing with one person and something different with others  
(With intent to deceive)
  - Like political concept of “spin”
- The work of a Deacon often times leads him to situations where people are needing help.
  - \*Need to be reliable in representation of facts
  - \*Needs to be a straight man
- Deacons must resist speaking to others about the matter putting their own slant on it.
  - Temptation of Gossip
- \*Deacons should be men of truth who understand Paul’s words.....
  - Ephesians 4:25 “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.”

## III. Not addicted to much wine

- 1<sup>st</sup> of all Scripture, time and time again, points to the sin of drunkenness Eph 5:18 being only one example from the New Testament. Drunkenness is the consuming of alcohol to the point of inebriation. Where enough brain cells are destroyed that a person wonders about in a drunken stupor, unable to clearly think or reason.

- NASB uses the word addicted and this fits in context very well
  - Addictive behavior whether alcohol, pornography or even food has ruined many peoples lives not to mention those who have to live with them.
  
- At the root of addiction is loss of control
  - Satan thrives on this.....
  - He knows that if he can get your focus
    - \*the battle is won and you will become his slave.
    - \*2 Peter 2:19 says "...for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him."
  
- The Greek uses the word given to much wine.
  - \*Given means not applied toward
    - \*Not the focus of attention
    - \*but temperate....where we get the temperance movement from
    - \*Self control is key here
  
- So can the Deacons drink a little?
  - Lets think about Wine in the New Testament
    - Used for regular meals
    - Parties
    - Used for medicinal purposes.
      - \*Paul told Timothy to take a little wine for his stomach 1 Tim 5:23
    - \*So did New Testament folks drink a little? YES
  
  - \*But, in New Testament times the distilling of Alcohol wasn't yet invented. The natural fermentation process was used and it only yielded an alcohol percentage of 7-10, and was generally mixed with three parts water. (Theological Workbook of the Old Testament).
    - \*In other words, It was very hard to get drunk on unless you really applied yourself
  
- The idea is that a Deacon not have his mind turned toward alcohol
  - Not to occupying himself with
  
- \*But being a Clear thinker....respectable able to go on a moments notice, not have to dry out first.
  - \*Avoiding the very appearance of sin
  - \*Men filled with the Spirit Eph 5:18

#### **IV. Not fond of sordid gain**

- The craving of wealth and resorting to dishonest methods of getting it
  - Greedy for money
  
- Its OK for me to win even if you have to loose..... thinking
  
- \*The deacons usually have access to church funds
  - They need to be trustworthy to the nth degree
  
- \*Not thieves maneuvering for self improvement
  - But stewards in God's Kingdom.
  
- \*Deacons should be men who put the Kingdom first
  - Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
  
- \*Men building up their treasures in heaven
  
- \*Men who realize that where their treasure is their heart will be also. Matt 6:21

#### **V. Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience**

- The idea here is Deacons are to be grounded in the gospel (Mystery Eph 6:19)
  - Why? .....
  - Because there is no work at all that goes beyond the boundaries of the gospel of Christ.
  
- Whose belief and conviction is strong
  - \*He knows his bible
  - \*He is watchful for Satan and his devices
  
- These are Men who act in accordance with their beliefs
  - From a pure (clean) conscience Romans 14
  - \*A deacon is a man who doesn't violate his conscience;
    - He is a sincere and honest man
  
- \*He is unmovable in his holding the faith,
  - Not tossed about by every wind of doctrine Eph 4:14
  - A man of conviction
  
- \*Grounded in the truth

#### **VI. Be Tested**

- \*Here the idea is that he is Approved
  - Determined to be genuine
  - Undergo a scrutiny
  - Examined

- \*Found Blameless
  - Un-accused
    - That is he is irreproachable
    - No specific charge of wrong doing laid against
  - Open to public investigation
- \*Not put into the office to be trained or developed....
  - Not an apprentice
  - This is a guy who can hit the ground running.

## **VII. Wives dignified (Verse 11)**

1 Timothy 3:11 “Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.”

- Gunaikas {goo-nay’} .....specifically wives
  - Honorable/respectable
  - Not slanders-Not malicious gossips
  - Sober/ serious...not an accuser or fault finder of others
  - Faithful in all things....
    - Trustworthy in every respect
  - Self controlled
- \*What about Phoebe the Deaconess....RSV .....Romans 16:1
  - If Phoebe was a Deaconess in an official sense she would be the only church leader in the new testament without a specific job assignment, with no qualifications given and no appointment.
  - Phoebe was simply a servant
- \*So the Wives are a very important

## **VIII. Husbands of one wife**

- By necessity .....Men
- Married

## **IX. Good managers of their children and their households**

- Managing or Ruling...has to do “with standing before” .....\*Leadership
  - Children
    - Daily experience with relationships
    - Problem solving
    - \*Ability to see needs before they are brought up
    - \*Ability to make tough decisions
    - \*Great care and love
    - \*\*Patients

-Household

- Keeping and organizing and managing a home is very important
- Lots of attention to detail

**READ:**

Acts 6:3 “Therefore, 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.”

**X. Good reputation**

- Honest report
- Seen well by the community
- They have shown a repeated pattern of godly living
  - \*i.e. Track record ... With consistency
    - Not given to crazy outburst
    - Not given to rudeness
    - Not seen a cunning
    - \*But Caring and Sacrificial

**XI. Full of the Spirit and of Wisdom**

- How do you know if someone is full of the spirit?
  - Gal 5:22 fruit of the spirit
    - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control
- Full of wisdom
  - Example: How shall we help someone?
    - If you give a drunk \$5 for food will he actually buy food or more drink?
  - Not human wisdom
- A deacon must be full of God

**Conclusion:**

Men of dignity  
Holding the mystery of God  
w/ clear conscience  
Tested  
Wives Dignified  
Husbands of one wife  
Good managers of children and household

Good reputation  
Full of Spirit and Wisdom  
  
NOT DOUBLE TONGUED  
NOT ADDICTED TO MUCH WINE  
NOT FOND OF SORDID GAIN

**\*\*Put in Charge**