

PAUL'S VISION FOR THE DEACONS

Chapters 7-8

WIVES or WOMEN or WIFE and WOMEN

1. 1 Timothy 3:11 is sandwiched in between a list of qualifications for the deacon in a local church. There are five possible interpretations as to the identity of these women may be, what are they?
2. What is one principle of Scripture that would be contrary to the “office” of deaconess?
3. How can we reconcile 1 Tim. 3:11 with all this information and what does this text mean for women’s involvement in the local church?
4. Is there any allowance for women other than the wife of a deacon to serve alongside Deacons in their ministry, i.e. Deacon’s Assistants?
5. Whatever the identification of these women in 1 Tim. 3:11, there are specific qualifications attached to them if they are going to be involved in ministry. Give a definition for each qualification below:
 - Dignified
 - not malicious gossips
 - temperate
 - faithful
6. If the women in this passage refer solely to Deacon’s wives, do you think this is an added restriction for a man to serve as Deacon if his wife is NOT involved in ministry but rather functions as a wife and mother to his children?
7. Do you understand the various arguments listed below (explain them)?
 - deaconesses
 - wives of deacons
 - women serving in the church
8. What is your interpretation of 1 Tim. 3:11 and why do you believe it to be correct?