

April 15, 2018

DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE

This morning, we have the privilege of participating in a service of ordination. We believe that God has ordained that Andy Teal should serve in the deacon ministry of this church. Today we affirm that we clearly see the evidence of God's call/equipping of Andy to meet the biblical standards of character qualities for deacons. But be certain of this: Jesus is still the subject of our worship today while Andy is the object of His glorious work!

Ordination is a one-time ceremony that affirms God's call/equipping for a specific ministry. Ordination must be distinguished from deacon service: ordination is for a lifetime – but deacon service may not be! Changing circumstances, relocations, altered conditions, and specified periods of service determine active service in deacon ministry. In fact, the term “deacon” means *“a servant who is serving.”* Therefore, when deacons are inactive for any reason, they are not servants who are serving – but that doesn't mean they lose their ordination!

Deacons & Pastors are the only 2 official servant-leader positions identified in the bible. These are not the only positions of meaningful ministry; but they're the only positions for which character qualities are outlined in scripture. The first deacons were those 7 men in Acts 6: *men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom*, selected by the church and put in charge of food distribution to widows. Deacon ministry concentrates on physical/material needs, while the ministry of pastors/elders focuses on spiritual teaching/training. In pastors & deacons, therefore, God provides His church with a team of leaders that work together to help members grow healthy, both practically & spiritually, and thru whom the whole body is trained, exhorted & accountable for meaningful service to the body & the world.

READ: 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (NLT) and explore with Andy:

- Andy's testimony @ God's calling/equipping
- Which of these easiest for you? Hardest? Working on?
- Tell us about your marital relationship with Ashley
 - demonstrate the issue of a “one-woman man!”

- “...andres mia gunaikos...” words vs. meaning
 - 3 words: man one woman; husband one wife
 - “faithful to their wives” still problematic!
 - excludes men not married or widowed
 - but Paul & Timothy were not married!
- 10 qualities of character; not condition, life-status
- neither are divorced men if “one-woman guys”
- Paul knows how to talk about divorce; not here!
- We'd never accept a deacon just because he is married if he was a flirt, a womanizer, or a skirt-chaser!!!

By properly arranging the 3 words in this phrase, we can actually re-capture the original meaning & reclaim 1 more quality trait: **a “one-woman man!”** A deacon must be a “one-woman man” whether married, single, widowed or divorced!

PRAYER BY ORDAINED MEN IN THE SERVICE:

- All ordained men in service are invited up to pray over AT
- Wash Andy's feet as “anointing for service”
- Gary Teal ends prayer as men lay hands on

PRESENTATION:

- Certificate (*signed by all Deacons*)
- Key-Word Study Bible

COMMENTS FROM ATT:

(*Gary's story of Andy's character*)

CONCLUSION: Teal family down front to be greeted

- Invitation to Fellowship Luncheon

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Exodus 29:4-9 (NLT)

4) *“Present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the Tabernacle, and wash them with water. 5) Dress Aaron in his priestly garments—the tunic, the robe worn with the ephod, the ephod itself, and the chest-piece. Then wrap the decorative sash of the ephod around him. 6) Place the turban on his head, and fasten the sacred medallion to the turban. 7) Then anoint him by pouring the anointing oil over his head. 8) Next present his sons, and dress them in their tunics. 9) Wrap the sashes around the waists of Aaron and his sons, and put their special head coverings on them. Then the right to the priesthood will be theirs by law forever. In this way, you will ordain Aaron and his sons.*

God “ordained” Aaron, the brother of Moses, and his sons to mediate & facilitate the worship of God by the Israelites. Therefore, these men were anointed to their service.

The term “ordain” comes from the root word for “order:” When we participate in a ceremony of ordination, we are enacting the way God has ordered the administration of His body, the church. God confers this holy order by His decree; we participate in a ceremony that confirms, consecrates and celebrates what God has ordained

This morning, to the glory of God, FBCT will participate with God in ordaining Andy Teal to the deacon ministry.

Sermon in a Sentence: Deacon Ordination

1 Timothy 3:12

12) Deacons must be “faithful to their wives” (NIV, NLT, CEV & a few others) but the rest use the translation “...must be the husband of one wife.” **This is not an irresponsible word assignment, but it carries a meaning that is not intended in the original language!** Thus, the difficulty! The original phrase in Greek is “andres mia gunaikos” which literally translated word for word is: “man one woman” or “husband one wife.” The “one woman” portion is an adjective describing the noun – the man. It answers the question, “What kind of man is a deacon?” The answer? He is a “one-woman man” – not a womanizer, cheater, unfaithful or a man who lusts after other women. When understood this way, it becomes a consistent part of the character qualities previously listed.

There is no reference to divorce here. Some might argue that divorced men are not one-woman men or not faithful to their wives. But in this day and age of “no-fault” divorce – this is no longer a safe conclusion. Therefore, we must ask not whether a man has been married more than once, and obviously that he is not currently a bigamist, but whether he is a “one-woman man” in the context of his marriage or in his singleness (widower, single)? Can a single, widowed, married or divorced man be a one-woman guy? Yes – I believe he can – just as easily as a man who is married to one wife can be a “womanizer,” cheating with other women in his heart or his body.

It is not the marital status that matters! It is the character of the man!