

Deacons likewise must be...

Text: 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. (1 Timothy 3:13)

Intro: Officebearers

I. Negatively

not double-tongued

addicted to much wine

fond of sordid gain

II. Positively

men of dignity (1 Timothy 3:4, 8, 11)

holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)

III. The Role of the Elders

elders → council → church

IV. The Deacon's Wives

Deaconesses?

Why to deacon's wives?

Application 1: Ambitious Deacons

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. (1 Timothy 3:1)

Application 2: Unmarried Deacons

First,

Second,

Third,

Among all the offices there is not one office which is more burdensome and detrimental to the body than the deaconship. It therefore frequently amazes me and gives me cause for rejoicing that the Lord gives the deacons such willingness and zeal, a fact which is generally true in the Netherlands. Upon receiving rich gifts they are as happy as if they had received them themselves. It does not trouble them to be engaged in their task until late in the evening. In no meeting is there generally more order, more unity, and more faithfulness than among the deacons. The Lord also rewards them, giving them honor and respect, and frequently grants that their own circumstances improve rather than deteriorate. --Brakel (1700)

Application 3: The Deacon's Reward

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (Acts 7:54-56)