

## 2 Making The Grade The Qualities of The Deacon

1 Timothy 3:8-13

September 16, 2018

When God raises up people to serve His Church, He does not look at their talents or abilities. Instead He looks for those whose hearts are right with Him! A persons Spiritual Virtue is paramount to God's calling them to serve.

Last week we saw an overview of the Qualities of a Deacon: **Acts 6:3** And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom.

This week we look at an expanded list that identifies the Quality a man must possess to be chosen to serve as a Deacon.

### I. **The Deacon must have Personal Character (8)**

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.

Four traits are given to define the Personal Character of a Deacon. One Positive and three negative.

- **Dignified** can also be translated as Serious.
- **Double Tongued** is the Prohibition of saying one thing to one person and another thing to someone else. Not Hypocritical but Integrity, consistency, and Honesty.

- **Addicted to much wine** or Preoccupied with drinking alcohol. Can't have a good time without Alcohol. **Habitual** use of Alcohol.

Drinking wine in Paul's day was largely for the **purification of water!**

**Romans 14:21** It is good not to eat meat or **drink wine** or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

- **Not Fond of Sordid Gain** Must never use his office/position as a means to make money. Deacons will control the money of the ministry they are officially overseeing. Temptation would always be there to steal from those funds as did Judas. The Deacon must be free from the love of money.

II. **The Deacon must have Personal Conviction**  
(9) They must hold the **mystery of the faith** with a **clear conscience**.

Fully **believe** in The Mysteries of The Faith:

- **Incarnation** of Christ 1 Tim 3:16
- **Indwelling** of Christ in Believers Col 1:26-27
- **Unity** of The Church in Christ Eph. 1:9 & 3:4-6
- **The Saving** Gospel Col 4:3
- **Lawlessness** 2 Thess. 2:7 The Antichrist

**2 Thessalonians 2:7-8** For the **mystery of lawlessness** is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And

then the **lawless one** will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

➤ **Rapture** of The Church 1 Cor. 15:51-52

**Clear Conscience** means that The Deacon not only Believes in the Truth of Scripture but **lives it!**

The human conscience will either **accuse** or **excuse**. It either produces guilt, shame, fear, remorse, and despair over sin, or assurance, peace, and joy due to righteousness. The Deacon who has a clear conscience will enjoy the latter three.

III. **The Deacon must Be Personally Certified**

(10) And let them also be **tested first**; then let them serve as deacons if they **prove themselves blameless**.

**Tested First** Indicates an ongoing test, not a one-time test. The test involved here is the general assessment of a believers **Unsolicited Service** in the church. A willingness to help and be involved before one becomes a Deacon. Once a Deacon the evaluation goes on.

**Blameless** means "**Not Arraigned**" as in a court of Law!

IV. **The Deacon Wife must also have Personal**

**Character** (11) Their wives likewise must be **dignified**, not **slanderers**, but **sober-minded**, **faithful** in all things.

When God calls a man into any ministry I believe He also Calls his wife! You become a **Ministry Team!**

- **Dignified** can also be translated as **Serious**.
- **Slanders** accusing others falsely, **Malicious Gossips**
- **Sober-Minded** sober in **judgement**, not under the **influence** of drugs or alcohol.
- **Faithful** Trustworthy, not found of sordid gain.

V. **The Deacon must have Personal Family Credibility (12)** Let deacons each be the **husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households** well.

- **Husband of on wife** literally means “One woman man.” Has nothing to do with divorce!
- **Home Life** Deacons are to be good managers of their children along with handling their money, possession, and everything associated with their own households. As with Elder’s children, the children of deacons must be believers.

VI. **The Deacon Who Serves Well Will then Receive Just Compensation (13)** For those who serve well as deacons gain a **good standing** for themselves and also **great confidence** in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

## **Two Rewards:**

- **First: Good Standing** literally refers to an elevated stand. Today we might say being **placed on a pedestal**. That is not sinful pride as a Deacon does not seek it. The Bible tells us that those who serve in humility will be exalted by God.
- **Second: Great Confidence** is often used for Boldness of Speech.

**In the Faith that is in Christ Jesus!** Refers to the whole sphere of Christian Truth, the family of Believers.

When you serve God well you recognize His power at work in your life which breeds confidence and assurance among the people you serve.

## **Praise Team Takes The Platform**