

How the Church Must View the Office of Deacon

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Introduction:

- The origin of the office of deacon (Acts 6)
 1. The apostles ran a f_____ distribution program to widows in the church of Jerusalem.
 2. As the church grew in numbers, they were found to be faithful in the things relating to God's w_____ and prayer, but not in the food distribution program. They overlooked certain widows.
 3. A complaint arose and they responded by saying, *It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.*
 - a. The above underlined words translates the Greek word for d_____, but in the verbal form.
 - b. This verbal form is found in the gospels as referring to the serving of food or doing some physical t_____ to help someone (e.g. Matt 4:4 – angels ministered to Jesus; Matt 8:15 – Peter's mother-in-law served them; Lk 10:40 – Martha complained that Mary left all the servings to her).
 - c. The verbal form is also in 1 Tim 3:10,13 and is translated as serve as d_____.
 4. The apostles had the church choose among themselves men with certain qualifications to manage this program – these men were the first d_____.
- The noun form, deacon, is only used three times to refer to the o_____ of deacon (in our passage in Timothy, Philippians 1:1; Rom 16:1).
 1. Rom 16:1 – the one holding this office is a w_____
 2. In the Greek language, the word deacon can either be masculine or feminine.
 - a. It is possible that Paul is addressing both men and women deacons in verses 8-10 (the NAS inserts the word *men* which is NOT in the Greek text). Whenever the Greeks addressed a mixed group, they used the m_____ gender.
 - b. Paul then specifically addresses w_____ in verse 11.

- c. Paul then specifically addresses m_____ in verse 12.
- d. Paul then concludes with addressing both men and women in verse 13.

- Verse 11 is not addressing the wives of deacons
 1. He would not hold the wives of deacons to a h_____ standard after giving no standards to the wives of pastors.
 2. The word *woman* and *wife* are the s_____ in the Greek language. If Paul wanted to be clear that wife was meant, he would have put the word *the* before it, but he doesn't.
- How must a church view the office of deacon?

As a q_____ position (8-12)

- Qualifications of a deacon (man or woman) – vv. 8-10
 1. Behavior - must be dignified or r_____ (v. 8a)
 2. Speech - must be t_____ (no double talk – v. 8b)
 3. Mind - must not be a_____ to alcohol (this would apply to drugs as well - v. 8c)
 4. Motive - must not be for personal g_____ (whether monetary or non-monetary – v. 8d)
 5. Commitment - to the m_____ of faith (the gospel – v. 9)
 6. They must first be t_____ in all the above before serving as a deacon (v. 10).
- Qualifications of a woman deacon – v. 11
 1. Paul realizes that he is about to give a qualification that only fits a man and so summarizes the previous qualifications, applying it to women.
 2. The four qualifications
 - a. Behavior – dignified or r_____ (v. 11a)
 - b. Speech – not malicious g_____ (v. 11b)
 - c. Mind – t_____, which literally means having no wine (v. 11c)
 - d. Motive and commitment – f_____ in all things (v. 11c)
- Specific qualifications of a male deacon – v. 12
 1. A one woman kind of m_____ (see previous sermon on this same qualification seen in v. 2).
 2. A good manager of his own c_____ and household (see previous sermon on this same qualification seen in v. 4).
- Our church's constitution and bylaws list 6 deacon positions:
 1. T_____

2. Offering counters
3. C_____
4. Deacon (in a general sense)
5. C_____
6. Trustees

As a q_____ position (13)

- As being an office of h_____ standing
- As being an office that is filled by people who boldly live out their f_____.

Conclusion:

- Our church needs work in this area
- Let's pray that we become more effective