

## 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 found 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 serving 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