

“The Church in Order – Deacons”

1 Timothy 3:8-15

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1 Timothy 3:8-15

⁸Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹*but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. ¹¹Women *must likewise be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹²Deacons must be husbands of *only one wife, and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. ¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

Acts 6:1-6

¹ Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of *food*. ²So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. ³Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:8-10

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, *including* both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

A. The **role** of Deacons is to **facilitate** the:

- 1) **Ministry** of the church
- 2) **Unity** of the church.

Acts 6:3

Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

B. Deacon qualifications:

- 1) **Recognized** by the church for their **personal integrity**.
- 2) **Trusted** by the church for their **spiritual maturity**.

1 Timothy 3:8-10

⁸Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹*but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1 Timothy 3:11

Women *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

Romans 16:1-2

¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; ² that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

1 Timothy 3:12

Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households.

1 Timothy 3:13

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.

C. The **results** of Deacon ministry are:

- 1) A great **assurance** of **faith**.
- 2) A great **boldness** in the **faith**.