

QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF A DEACON

(I Timothy 3:8-13)

- Introduction:
1. To be fully organized as the Bible states, a congregation should not only have shepherds who oversee the flock, but they should have deacons who serve within the flock.
 2. The work of a deacon is a vital work that can make or break a congregation of God's people (Acts 6:1-7).
 3. The church will always need men to answer the call of service and who will serve in this special capacity.
 4. This lesson is designed to encourage men to desire and qualify for this noble avenue of service to God.

I. Misconceptions About The Work Of Deacons

- A. There is no special office or work called a "deacon".
1. It is true that the Greek word "diakonos" which is translated deacon has reference to:
 - a. Christ (Romans 15:8).
 - b. The apostles (II Corinthians 3:6).
 - c. Evangelists (I Timothy 4:6).
 - d. Any faithful Christian (John 12:26).
 - e. Civil authorities (Romans 13:4).
 - f. Satan's servants (II Corinthians 11:15).
 - g. Women servants in the church (Romans 16:1).
 2. While it is true that the word "diakonos" generally means servant, it is sometimes used in a special sense, referring to a special class of servants.
 3. If this is not the case, how do we explain the qualifications given?
- B. Deacons help oversee a congregation of God's people.
1. Deacons have been given no authority to oversee a church.
 2. Deacons do not have equal responsibility of oversight and decision making in a local church.
 3. Deacons are not a ruling body, but a serving body who carry out policy, not create it.
- C. Deacons do not hold an "*honorary*" **status**, but possess an "*honor worthy*" **job**.
1. A deacon who doesn't work is like a preacher who doesn't preach.
 2. An inactive deacon lends encouragement to those who would speak against God's great redemptive plan.
 3. In some churches, the term "deacon" has become an honorary title instead of a work that is to be done. Thus, committees have been formed to do the work that should be done by the deacons.

II. The Qualifications Of Deacons

- A. (I Timothy 3:8-13).
- B. The qualifications for a deacon are "*musts*", and therefore a church should not look out among themselves men who come closest to these qualifications.
1. If one is not fully qualified, he is not qualified at all.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

(I Timothy 3:8-13)

Experience	Reputation	Character	Ability
He Must Be Proved	Blameless	Reverent	Must Hold The Mystery Of The Faith.
Husband Of One Wife		Not Double Tongued	
Ruling Their Children & Houses Well		Not Given To Much Wine	
		Not Greedy For Money	

III. The Responsibilities Of Deacons

- A. To look after the physical and material needs of the church (Acts 6:1-7).
 - 1. While this is true, it would be a mistake to suggest that they do not serve in spiritual ways.
- B. To attend to any need in which the elders request their assistance.
 - 1. A deacon who complains about being asked to do work by the elders needs to reevaluate what it means to be a deacon.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Because of the fact that a servant is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Mark 10:43), those who serve well as deacons obtain a good standing and boldness before God (I Timothy 3:13).
 - 2. Consider the importance of this work, and step forward to accept God's call for men.