

# Character Qualifications for Deacons

## Introduction

Godly leadership makes the true, spiritual difference w/in the church. It is not accidental that almost all instruction on deacons relates to their qualifications. Not just anyone who wants to be a deacon can be a deacon. Placing unqualified men into church leadership is a key tool of Satan for thwarting church growth & killing a church. A properly ordered church must have morally & spiritually qualified overseers & deacons. (1 Timothy 3.1-13.)

### I. There is a need for qualified leadership.

- A. Shepherds/deacons hold positions of sacred trust.
- B. 1 Tim. 3 reveals God's concept of a deacon.

### II. Deacons must be men of dignity. (3.8a)

- A. Meaning here comes along with the idea of being: Respectable/honorable.
- B. When thinking of a candidate for this office:
  - 1. Is he someone who is known & respected by the congregation?
  - 2. Is he someone you can trust?

### III. Deacons must exhibit purity in speech. (3.8b)

- A. A man is no better than his word. *Nothing destroys influence like deceit.*
- B. Wording here – *double tongued.*
  - 1. Literally saying 1 thing to 1 man and a different thing to the next.
- C. In short, a deacon must be a man of his word. He must mean what he says.

### IV. Deacons must not be given too much wine. (3.8c)

- A. *Not addicted... not given...*
  - 1. To hold the mind towards, pay attention to, be cautious about...
  - 2. Much: "abundant, plenty."
- B. A deacon is not to pay attention to much wine, not to attend to much wine, not to regard much wine.
  - 1. **Saying they are not to be addicted to much wine, does not mean that a little is permissible.**
- C. Much of the work done by deacons requires an alert and sober mind.
  - 1. Proverbs 23:29-35 - does this describe the behavior of a deacon?

### V. Deacons are not to be fond of sordid gain. (3.8d)

- A. One's religious office must not be used to achieve financial gain at the expense of others.
  - 1. Luke 11:39b; 20:47a – Jesus dealings w/the scribes & Pharisees.
  - 2. Matthew 21:12a-13 – cleaned out the temple – nothing more than a retail store.
  - 3. Hebrews 13:5a – an admonition to Christians.
- B. A man must have financial integrity if he is to serve as a deacon. 1 Samuel 12:3.

### VI. Deacons must hold the mystery of faith. (3.9)

- A. This qualification demands that a deacon's life be consistent w/Christian doctrine.
- B. NT never allows people to separate life & doctrine.
- C. What is the mystery of faith?
  - 1. Mystery of faith – is the revealed secrets of the Christian faith.

- D. Titus 2:10 - Deacons must hold steadfastly to Christian faith & live consistently w/their beliefs.