

Examining Men for Service

Introduction:

1 Tim. 3:10 requires the congregation to examine a candidate's fitness for office. No one may serve as deacon until first tested & approved. The process of confirmation requires time & effort. While we are busy around here – we must not be too busy to thoroughly examine the men who wish to serve. Unfit deacons can cause problems in the church & hurt innocent people. Deacons are the key to church work and growth.

I. A man cannot **appoint himself to the Diaconate.**

- A. Every prospective deacon must be evaluated by others.
 - 1. His character must be examined **in light of God's standards.**
 - 2. Deacon candidate must meet all biblical **qualifications.**
 - a. Must be **examined** as to these qualifications
 - b. 1 Tim. 5:22 – must not be done in a hasty, **careless** manner.
 - 3. **Elders** oversee this process. They direct the affairs of the church.
 - 4. The **congregation** must actively be involved.
- B. There is biblical precedent for this.
 - 1. Acts 1:15-26 – Peter stood up with the “**120.**”
 - 2. Acts 6 – problem of Hellenistic widows involved entire **congregation.**
 - 3. Acts 15 – apostles deferred their decision to the congregation.

II. A closer look at 1 Tim. 3:10.

- A. The qualities required must be present at the time of their being placed into office.
- B. Need men that we recognize as **already** busy in God's work.
- C. Deacons are men who have **proved** they to be competent servants.

III. Handling Objections/Accusations.

- A. 1 Tim. 2:1-3:16 – context deals with congregational instruction.
- B. This teaches us that everyone in congregation should **know** the qualifications AND
 - 1. Everyone has a responsibility to see that these biblical instructions are **implemented.**
- C. What about objections? Accusations?
 - 1. If questions arise on the candidate's character – **the objection must be scripturally based.**
- D. *The evaluation process is not a popularity contest or an election!*
 - 1. It is a testing of character to the light of **Scripture.**
- E. **God's standards alone govern God's house – not group popularity!**

IV. Prospective Deacons may be installed if they are found **blameless.**

- A. The standard for approving a deacon is that he is to be found *beyond reproach.*
 - 1. Means he stands **unaccused.**
- B. This does not mean that he does not have **faults** or imperfections. We all do.
- C. A man of dignity? Truthful? Self controlled? Live consistently? A faithful husband?

V. This process should be bathed in **prayer.** Acts 6:6

- A. People must pray for **insight**, guidance, and unbiased judgment.
- B. While praying about this – we must desire **God's** will be done & not our own.

Conclusion:

- A. In every local church, there is an urgent need for men to prepare themselves for leadership.
- B. Let's go out & accomplish God's purposes & plans for His work here!