

## 1 Tim. 3:11-12 – Qualifications for Wives & Family

### Introduction:

In 1 Timothy 3:11, does Paul introduce a new class of people closely associated with deacons? Is Paul referring to women in general or wives of deacons? The context determines the answer. Some have taken 3:11 to mean that: 1) Paul addressing women who are deacons. (women officers in the church) 2) Women who assist deacons. 3) Wives who assist their deacon husbands. Who is in question in 3:11?

### I. Wives of deacons are under consideration here.

- A. Wives must be like their husbands (3:8-9)
  - 1. Wives must be of the same moral character as their husbands.
  - 2. Wives are to be above reproach.
- B. 3:11 is not an awkward interruption of thought in the middle of male deacon's requirements.

### II. God's expectations for deacon's wives.

- A. Wives are to be dignified.
- B. Wives are not to be malicious gossips.
  - 1. Wording here means *slandorous* or *malicious talkers*.
  - 2. God expects us to make peace; speak in love; truth
- C. Wives are to be temperate. involves stable character
  - 1. Refers to a woman who has balanced judgment and self control.
  - 2. Wives who lack these qualities will undermine a deacon's service within the congregation.
- D. Wives are to be faithful in all things.
  - 1. She is to be loyal to God! Unshakeable!
  - 2. Faithfulness marked all the great women & men of God!
    - a) Hebrews 3:5; Nehemiah 7:2; 9:8; Colossians 1:7
    - b) *In all things*. in every relationship; In every sphere of life

### III. 3:12 – Family Requirements.

- A. The need for marital purity. Must be husband of one wife.
  - 1. It expresses an exemplary marital relationship; one above reproach.
  - 2. Phrase refers to a "one woman" man.
- B. Good managers of their children & households
  - 1. Emphasis on "good" here. Properly; excellently.
  - 3. A candidate must supervise his family well.
- C. Children must obey & submit to his leadership in the home.
  - 1. Not a spirit crushing dictatorship.
  - 2. but lovingly in the spirit of Ephesians. 6:4
- D. Father must not be passive or disinterested in his children.
  - 1. He must actively guide/care for them & the entire household.
  - 1. See Proverbs 3:12; 23:13-14; 29:17
- E. A man's ability to manage God's church is directly related to his ability to manage his household.