

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 3:8-13.**
- B. Last Lord's Day I preached a couple of sermons concerning the qualifications and work of Elders.
- C. This morning I want to talk for a few minutes on the qualifications and work of deacons.
- D. At the close of service today the Elders will announce for your approval those whom they have selected to serve as additional elders and deacons.

I. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS.

- A. The word *deacon* is a transliteration from the Greek, *diakonos*. The word means, a servant or minister who executes the commands of another.
- B. Negative qualifications:
 1. Not double-tongued.
The deacon should be a man who has control of his words.
 - a. This term, as found in the Gk. text, means deceitful, lacking integrity.
 - b. Deacons should be men who tell the truth and do not deal in falsehood or rumor.
 2. Not given to much wine.
The deacons should be a man who has control of his habits.
 - a. As true with the qualifications for elders, deacons are to be men that are not controlled by strong drink. They are not addicted to anything/anyone other than X.
 - b. Also, it would seem reasonable to me that mature Xian will put away all intoxicants.
 3. Not greedy of filthy lucre.
The deacon should be a man who has control of his money.
 - a. Money is not the goal. He is not inordinately fond of making money.
 - b. Spiritual, mature men are those who know how to rightly handle money.
- C. Positive qualifications:
 1. Grave (serious).
The deacon should be a man who takes life in the church seriously.
 - a. If a man looks at life flippantly, he will discharge his duties in a haphazard manner.
 - b. A synonym for grace is honorable. A deacon does things properly, with honor. When needed to be discreet, he is that. When needing to be quick he is that, etc.
 2. Holding the mystery of the faith, in a pure conscience.
The deacon should be a man who understands the gospel message and the moral implications thereof.
 - a. The deacon understands the importance of serving due to X coming not to be served, but to serve.
 - b. While the conscience by itself does not completely vindicate, an impure or guilty conscience knows that there is sin to be repented of.
 3. Husband of one wife.
The deacon must be a man who is loyal to one woman--his wife.
 - a. Those serving as deacons will be men, not women.
 - b. Deacons will have a strong marriage and his wife will be the love of his life.
 4. Ruling his children and house well.
The deacon must be a man who knows how to serve and lead his own family.

While the injunction that deacons have children who are Xians is absent, the overall thrust is the same. Deacons are to be good family men, having a family that is well taken care of emotionally, spiritually, and materially.
 5. They are to first be proved.

*The deacon must be a man **who has served the church well in the past.***

- a. It is entirely permissible for the Elders to assign various tasks in the body to people without making them deacons. This is something that should be done so that it will be an accepted fact that the one who serves as a deacon is one who has served the congregation well in the past.
 - b. Lifestyle proves the character and makes it evident to all.
- D. A brief look at 3:11.
*Women **must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.***
1. I do not believe that this verse authorizes women to serve as deacons. If it did it would contradict the teachings found in the very next verse saying that deacons are to be the husband of one wife.
 2. If Paul had meant to call these women deacons he would have done so--but he didn't.
 3. It seems more logical to think that there were women in the church at Ephesus that were doing some specific tasks for the church, and those who did so were to be women of the qualities listed.
 4. Phoebe was called a deaconess by Paul in Rom. 16:1, but Paul also called policemen deacons in Rom 13:4. He was using the term as denoting a person rendering a very special service.
- E. A brief look at 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.
1. Some have looked at this verse to say that those men who serve well as deacons, when later qualified to serve as elders should do so.
 2. Another way to view this verse is that to serve as a deacon is to do a work that is very rewarding in and of itself. It is a good thing to serve as a deacon and work for the Lord in that way, whether or not it results in one later becoming an elder.

II. THE WORK OF DEACONS.

- A. There was more than one deacon in the congregation in Philippi (Phil.1:1).
- B. The work of Deacons can best be described as serving to meet needs.
 1. Acts 6:1-6 illustrates how deacons are to serve their local congregation.
 2. Notice that these seven men were given a specific task to carry out.
- C. Some specific tasks for deacons are:
 1. Any task that the elders ask them to do. In this congregation; finance, worship, education, involvement, building & grounds, and youth are areas of responsibility.
 2. You could add; missions, media, evangelism, benevolence, and young adults.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The selection of deacons in a congregation is a very important and worthwhile thing.
- B. Much good will be accomplished for the Lord due to an organized effort under the direction of deacons.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.