



Qualifications for Deacon

“Entrusted to You” Series

1 Timothy 3:8-13, p. 992

March 21, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we learn about the qualifications for the office of deacon.

The Text: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

- 1) The office of deacon is different than the office of pastor-elder in several ways.
- 2) God has given the church ten characteristics of a person serving in the office of deacon (vv. 8-12).
 - (1) *Dignified*
 - (2) *Not a gossip*
 - (3) *Not addicted to wine*
 - (4) *Not greedy for dishonest gain*
 - (5) *Understand the gospel clearly*
 - (6) *Tested and proven*
 - (7) *Male and female*
 - (8) *Ethical and moral*
 - (9) *Faithful to the covenant of marriage*
 - (10) *Faithful to their family*
- 3) The ministry of deacons offers a blessing to both the church and the person who serves (v. 13).

Some final thoughts:

- Understand the ministry performed by deacons.
 - *Facilities*
 - *Benevolence/Care*
 - *Finances/Logistics*
 - *Ushers/Greeters*
 - *General Ministry*
 - *Staff Positions (non-pastor-elder)*
- Pray for and honor your deacons.
- If any of you men and women aspire to be a deacon, let this text direct your aspirations.

Response

May we be a church that aligns itself to the ministry structure prescribed for us in God’s Word.

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: In what ways do you or have you served in a local church?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How would you explain the required qualities of a deacon listed in v. 8?
- 4) What is v. 9 requiring, especially when you understand that the phrase “the mystery of the faith” is referring to “the deep truths of the faith?”
- 5) Why, according to v. 10, should a deacon be “tested first,” and how should churches practice that requirement?
- 6) How does the start of v. 11 change the sense of the entire verse when you realize the word “their” is not in the Greek and “wives” can also mean “women” (hence: “women likewise must...”)?
- 7) Why do you think God assigns men alone to serve in the office of pastor-elder but makes both men and women essential to the office of deacon?
- 8) What benefits does Paul conclude with in v. 13 that come with serving in the office of deacon?
- 9) What does this passage as a whole teach you about the importance and seriousness of the office of deacon?
- 10) The ministry of deacons involves many things (facilities, benevolence/care, finances/logistics, ushers/greeters, general ministry, and non-pastor-elder staff positions). In what deacon roles have you served in, and in what roles would you like to serve in?

Further study this week: Passages on serving in the church: Matthew 20:25-28 (Mon); Galatians 5:13 (Tues); Colossians 3:12-17 (Wed); Ephesians 2:10 (Thurs); Matthew 25 (Fri).