

# 1 Timothy 3:8-15

## Church Leadership Part 2

**This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> study on the subject of Church Leadership – Last time – Elders / today Deacons**

A) The word Deacon in the NT simply means one who serves.

B) In the History of the Church it was a term that was used to describe those who were involved in **Practical ministry**.

**The first mention of Deacons occurs here in Acts ch.6**

A) Communal living out of necessity –

B) **Dispute**: Hellenistic widows Grk origin & speaking felt like they were being neglected – came to apostles....

C) **Problem**: Apostles: Our Priority needs to be the word and prayer – Give ourselves to those things

1) It is not good for us to leave that – so .....

D) **Solution**: Choose seven guys of Good Rep / Full of the HS / and wisdom – take care of this !

1) That is when the first Deacons were appointed!

**Today I want to consider 4 things about the Deacons**

1) Their Motivations for service.

2) Their Qualifications for service.

3) Their appointment for service.

4) Their Prize for serving.

**Start with the Motivation for service:**

A) This scenario – tells me there is going to be 3 Key motivations for the service of a Deacon.

B) **#1 He loves the Word**: What do I mean by that?

C) The apostles declared that their priority needed to be the Word and Prayer – Give ourselves to that.

1) The Response of the Deacon is WE WANT TO help them do that !

D) They are men who believe in the Priority of the teaching if the word of God.

1) So if they can pick up the slack in practical areas so that the Elders have more time for study / prayer

E) They realize their Pastors are going to be bettered prepared to teach the word –

1) Better prepared to feed the flock of God!

**That becomes their primary motivation – realizing they played a big role in the sharing of the Word.**

A) If they can free up their Pastors to study and pray and seek the heart of God

B) The rest of the Church was going to benefit greatly for it.

1) Because the word would be allowed to go forth in Power and thru the ministry of the Spirit

C) So their first motivation was a love for the word

## #2 A love for their Leaders!

A) In the heart of these deacons was a desire to see the apostles fulfilling their calling.

B) **No greater satisfaction** than knowing they helped them to accomplish what God wanted them to do.

C) High School ministry with Richard:

1) Every Wed after college I would go over to the Church at CCCM – Set up Chairs in the HS room

D) Now no one asked me to do that – for about 6 months – no one knew I did it.

## One day I heard Richard talking about how he had a busy day felt unprepared – spent a couple hrs Chairs

A) I am going to do that! – Started doing it . Didn't tell him

B) So I would set up 250 chairs – clean up the room

C) Sometimes he would mention – how blessed he was that someone did that

1) Extra study – NUGGET – Or Some extra time with family – actually went home for dinner!

D) When He said that I felt so good – because I knew I helped him fulfill his calling

1) The word that was shared that night - I had a part in it.

## E) People ministered to – people saved – part of my fruit – I freed him up to fulfill his calling !

1) Deacon Loves to see his leaders fulfilling their calling !

## #1 Love for the word / #2 Love for their leaders

## #3 He has a Love for God's People.

A) His desire is to see them well taken care of! Loves it when their needs are being met

B) Everyone is being treated fairly!

C) I would compare a Deacon in some ways to a mother. – **Heart to take care of her kids**

1) Practical needs – Laundry cooking / cleaning

D) My two oldest were at HS camp – My wife spent the weekend – completely re doing their room.

1) Surprise and bless them.

## It is that heart that a mother & or single Dad – that really wants to take care of the House

A) Clean – because they don't want their families living in a pig sty. – Unsafe environment

B) They want the home to be a Sanctuary for their families – a place of refuge

**C) That is the heart of the Deacon – He wants God’s house to be an OASIS – a Sanctuary – refuge**

1) It puts a smile on the face of the Deacon when he sees God’s people being refreshed and blessed.

**So the Job of the Deacon is to take away the Strife – see what they can do to make people’s experience in God’s house as Stress free as Possible**

A) Might Start with making sure the Bathrooms are clean and tidy.

B) Helping cars get parked – Giving a warm greeting

1) Making sure that teachers are in their classrooms

C) **He is like a waiter in a fine restaurant –**

1) He wants to do whatever he can so that those he is waiting on have the ultimate experience in enjoying their meal.

D) The waiters motivation for his service **is a good tip**

1) The Deacons motivation for his service is to bless his brothers and sisters And to honor the Lord

E) So the Deacon is motivated by a Love for the Word / a Love for His leaders / a Love for God’s people.

Consider the qualifications: Acts 3 things

1 Tim 3 5 things

A) **Good reputation:** Good witness – Good testimony in the eyes of his Brothers & Sisters

B) They were to be men of good character who could be trusted,

1) men who had already won the confidence of others.

B) **Full of the Holy Spirit:** Men who were baptized in the Spirit.

1) Men who knew the meaning of living life dependent upon the Spirit vs. their flesh

C) **Spirit directed and empowered men!**

D) **Full of Wisdom:** Wisdom is knowledge applied

1) Men with common sense !

E) Being Full of the Holy Spirit and full of wisdom: Men who were Spiritually minded and Practically minded !

Turn to 1 Timothy 3:8-11

**Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,<sup>9</sup> holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.<sup>10</sup> But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.**

Next Character qualifications

1) **Reverent**- Respected – carries the same idea as good reputation. **Also serious about the ministry**

2) **Not double-tongued**- That is an interesting phrase. A) Those of us who grew up on the Lone Ranger and Tonto remember that every now and then Tonto used to say. **"White man speak with forked tongue."**

B) That is exactly the idea that this word has -- a tongue that says two things, one thing to one person and another thing to someone else.

C) Talking out of both sides of his mouth

**D) People that do that are usually motivated by a desire to be liked by everyone.**

1) **They become too faced and are not loyal or trustworthy**

E) **Also have a tendency to compromise the truth**

Can't do that – trying to please everyone – Problems

F) **A Deacon is not double tongued but speaks with integrity.**

3) **Not given to much wine**: Doesn't abuse alcohol.

4) **Not greedy for money**:

A) **The best term for that today is, they are not to be "wheeler-dealers," always looking for a fast buck,**

B) **Not using Church time for business time.**

1) I know guys who refuse to do business at Church – I respect that

C) Side Note: Teachers not their time to talk about School – time to be refreshed

5) **Doctrinally sound**: holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

A) **The word *mystery* means "truth once hidden but now revealed by God."**

B) **The great doctrines of the faith are hidden to those outside the faith, but they can be understood by those who trust the Lord.**

C) Deacons are to understand Christian doctrine and obey it with a good conscience.

D) **They need to be men who base their actions / decisions and counsel on the Word.**

1) God's word is their guide not popular opinion or practice.

**Domestic Qualification**:

1) **Manage their homes well – House is in order !**

2) **Husband of one wife: One woman man**

A) **Not Divorced ? BC vs. AC**

## B) The Wife of the Deacon

- 1) The deacon's wife is a part of his ministry, for godliness must begin at home.
- C) **Their wives must be Christians, women who are reverent: serious about the ministry**
- 1) **Good rep as a godly woman**
- D) **not given to slanderous talk**- Not gossips
- E) **Temperate** = Modest this would refer to how she dresses
- F) **Faithful in all things** = Trustworthy and responsible.

## The Deacons Prize:

- A) **Two things will result when the service of a deacon is done in a rightful way:**
- B) **First, it will create a great sense of appreciation on the part of the congregation –**
- 1) deacons will have "good standing for themselves."
- C) **Their ministry will be widely received and appreciated.**

## But the second thing Paul says is most interesting.

- A) He says that deacons earn for themselves, "great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."
- B) **The word is really, "boldness."**
- 1) Sense of Confidence in knowing he is being used by God.
- C) **Stephen and Phillip went on the Great ministries**  
**Stephen's Boldness in Preaching – Stoned**  
**Phillips in Evangelism and Faith**

## Their Appointment:

- A) **Choose 7 men from Among you ! That we may appoint**
- B) **V.10 Let them first be tested**
- C) **Tested: Coins examined**
- 1) **Metals purified in the fire.**
- D) **Deacons are to be tested: examined over time and in many situations**
- 1) **How do they react when the heat is on.**

## Paul concludes this section on Church leadership by making 2 wonderful Statements about the Church

- A) **And a Powerful Declaration about the Lord!**
- B) **The Church: House of God**

## The house of God (v. 15a).

- A) **Family:**

B) Not a Hospital

1) Hip surgery couldn't wait to get home!

### ***The pillar and ground of the truth (vv. 15c-16).***

A) This is an architectural image which would mean much to Timothy at Ephesus,

B) Ephesus knew pillars!

**Temple of Diana** (1 of the 7 Wonders of the World) had 127 pillars, everyone a gift of a king, all were marble, some were studded w/jewels & overlaid w/gold.

C) They could refer to support or display.

We are to hold up the truth so all men can see it!

A Jesus Hymn! (16)

### **“Great is the mystery of godliness.”**

A) The mystery of godliness is that God in the person of Jesus Christ entered this world in which we live,

B) paid the penalty of sin, and is making men and women godly—that is, with Godlikeness.

ALL ABOUT JESUS !!!!

### **God was manifested in the flesh:**

This is the essence of the incarnation - that God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, added to His deity humanity - and was thus **manifested in the flesh**.

### **Justified in the Spirit:**

A) We can say that Jesus was **justified by the Spirit** not in the sense that He was once sinful but made righteous, but in the sense that He was declared to be, by the Holy Spirit, what He always was - completely justified before the Father.

B) This declaration was made at His baptism (Matthew 3:16), and at His resurrection (1 Peter 3:18; Acts 2:32-33).

### **Seen by angels:**

A) When was Jesus **seen by angels**? There are many instances (Mark 1:13; Luke 22:41-43); but Paul probably has in mind the angelic witness to the resurrection (Matthew 28:2-7).

### **Preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world:**

Paul himself did his best to *fulfill* these statements.

### **Received up in glory:**

Jesus ascended into heaven in a resurrection body; yet a body that still retained **the marks of His great work of love for us** –

the nail prints in His hands and feet, the wound in his side, all marks of His suffering on our behalf.

**Received up in glory** reminds us of Jesus' ascension His finished work on our behalf and His present intercession for us