

Lesson 11 — Deacon's Qualifications

An deacon's work is best understood by defining the term which describes his office. Review Lesson 3

Deacon

- **diakonos** — one who executes the commands of another, esp. a master.
- **diakoneo** — to be a servant, attendant, minister, to relieve the needs of others.

How does the definition help to describe the work they do?

MAIN TEXT FOR DEACONS: 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

"Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1).

Similarities to Elder's Qualifications

1. Not greedy for money
2. Not given to much wine
3. Husband of one wife
4. Ruling own children and their houses well
5. Blameless

Elder's Qualifications not present in Deacon's Qualification

1. Not a novice (can be younger in age and / or in the faith)
2. Apt to teach (is a minister to the elders and congregation, not a teaching shepherd).
3. Able to convict the gainsayer
4. Believing children

A Deacon Must Also Be...

1. Reverent
2. Not Double-tongued (see James 1:8; 3:3:9-12)
3. Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience (2 Thes. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:13; Heb. 10:22,23).

Likewise their wives must be... (3:11)

1. Reverent
2. Not slanderers (malicious talkers, see also Titus 2:3)
3. Temperate (sober, circumspect, self-controlled)
4. Faithful in all things (trustworthy, committed)

So, Really, What Are We Looking For?

1. Serious-Minded Men
2. Stable, consistent, solid and grounded.
3. Free from love of money and material pleasures
4. Good families (obedient children, faithful wife)
5. Servant-minded (Mark 10:35-45; Phil. 2:19-22,29-30).