

Selection and Qualifications of Deacons

➤ = next PowerPoint

➤ Intro:

- as **Dennis already announced**, beginning the process of selecting deacons
- **Jerry and Dennis planning to do their annual address** to the congregation next Sunday morning, asked me to speak on deacons today
- **this lesson:** Selection and Qualifications of Deacons
 - note: photo by Rick Baughn

➤ Deacons are an important part of the congregation

- **deacons are a distinct group of men** in the congregation
 - **Phil. 1:1** elders, **deacons**, members

➤ - deacons serve the congregation, under the oversight of the elders

- **1 Tim. 3:8, 12** Greek word *diakonos*, (noun) translated “**deacon**” means **servant**
 - note: *diakonos* (servant) used of Christ, and all Christians

➤ Acts 6:1-6 Work of deacons, and an example of selection

- **story: selection of servants, distribute food to widows**

- **Acts 6:2** “serve” translated from *diakoneo*, verb for of *diakonos*
 - this is a good example of **appoint men to the office of servant**

- **Acts 6:3** congregation selected men who met **qualifications** from among themselves, **apostles appointed**
 - **our elders will give details on the exact expedient method** we’ll use

- Acts 6:3 deacons put in charge

- deacons are men the **elders put in charge of prescribed duties**
- deacons **function under the oversight of elders, as do all members**

- Acts 6:6 example of ordination

- **possible work of our deacons:** treasury, yard & building, organization of Bible classes and material, organization of evangelistic efforts, teaching classes in and outside of the church, caring for needs of members, list is almost endless

➤ Man must be tested before ordained a deacon

- **1 Tim. 3:10a** tested (proved, KJV)

- **qualifications** are those the standard by which we test a man, before selecting and ordaining as a deacon
 - next, qualifications, broken down into major categories

➤ **Qualifications: moral and spiritual integrity** – qualifications every Christian should meet

- **1 Tim. 3:8-10**

- **vs. 8 men of dignity (reverent, grave)**

- **behave in a dignified and reverent way**; therefore they are **grave**

- everyone likes to have fun, but these men are serious about serious matters

- **these men are respected by others**

- therefore, they are **trusted** by others (e.g., \$)

- therefore, they are **respected by others when they are in leadership roles** to accomplish a work

- **note: a man's wife must also be dignified (reverent) for him to qualify as a deacon (1 Tim. 3:11)**

➤ - **vs. 8 not double-tongued**

- **don't say one thing one to one person, and something different to another person**

- **consistent and truthful**

- **interaction with elders** – even when make mistakes

- **interaction with members** – get a straight story every time

- **sin for anyone to be double-tongued**

- would cause strife, contentions, and division

- would hurt the work rather than help

➤ - **vs. 8 not addicted to much wine (not given to much wine)**

- **lit. "not holding the mind"** therefore he is **not holding his mind to much wine**

- not one who **doesn't even has his mind on partaking of much wine**, which results in drunkenness and impaired judgment

- **1 Cor. 6:12** Christians shouldn't be addicted to anything

- **illus.: not obsessed with worldly things – video games**

➤ - **vs. 8 not fond of sordid gain (not greedy for money, not greed of filthy lucre)**

- **one who doesn't try to make money illegally or in ways that hurt others** (making money in *mean* ways)

- one who is **not disposed to using his position to make money** (likewise elders; Tit. 1:17)

- one who has **not discredited himself with bad behaviors in attempting to make a profit**

➤ - **vs. 9 holding the mystery of faith with a clear conscience**

- **faithful to the gospel of Christ, and possessing a clear conscience**

- **true to the gospel, and true to his conscience**

- **Ja. 4:17** Therefore, to **one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.**

➤ - **vs. 10 beyond reproach (blameless)**

- **a sustainable charge of sin can't be brought against him**

- **has a good track record of faithfulness, correcting mistakes when they are made** - no one is perfect

- **Qualification: Lawfully married to a faithful wife** – qualifications all Christian women should meet
 - **1 Tim. 3:11-12** husband of one wife
 - some translations “wives” and some “women”
 - **Greek denotes a woman** of any age, whether married or not
 - **context used to determine whether woman married** or not, not the Greek word
 - **1 Tim. 3:11-12 context here necessitates “wives”** here, since a woman could not be qualified, deacon must be husband of one wife
 - **Why might it be important to have a wife? — same as elders**
 - **not tempted** when working with others, widows and other women
 - **have a wife that can help** when working with **other women**
 - **have a confidant and sounding board**
 - **note:** those who do not have these experiences are not any less a Christian, just not experienced or have the necessary station in life – **illus.:** **elder** and wife dies, not less of a person but station in life changed
- **Qualifications: Deacon’s wife**
 - **vs. 11 dignified (reverent)**
 - **behave in a dignified and reverent way;** therefore they are grave
 - **like their husbands (vs. 8)**
 - - **vs. 11 not malicious gossips (not slanderous)**
 - **lit. “she-devils”** the devil is the chief slanderer, therefore a woman who slanders is a she-devil
 - **gossip:** habitually reveals personal or sensational facts to hurt others; rumor or report of an intimate nature
 - rumor spreader
 - someone often talking about others
 - **slander:** utter false charges or misrepresentations to hurt others, to defame and malign
 - **a wife who is engaged in slander and gossip is not only in sin, but also committing strife and division**
 - **she will destroy her husband’s work**
 - **she will bring the whole church down** if she’s not stopped
 - - **vs. 11 temperate (sober)**
 - **one who is sober and moderate, in full control of herself**
 - **as with elders (vs. 2)**
 - - **vs. 11 faithful in all things**
 - **mature Christian, faithful in all she does**
 - **she is capable of supporting and helping her husband, not a hindrance to him**

- **Qualifications: Deacon's management of his home** – all Christians should be good managers of their homes
 - one of most significant differences between elder and deacon is family – elder “must” have children who are Christians (**Tit. 1:6**)
 - **vs. 12 husband of one wife**
 - must be lawfully married – qualifications for wife in **vs. 11**
 - **vs. 12 must have children**
 - use of the plural “deacons” with “children” and “households” indicates that a deacon is qualified with any number of children – one or more
 - **note context: similar to “managers” and “households”** – one deacon, one household
 - **note qualification of elders:** an elder (singular) must have believing children (plural)
 - **vs. 12 good manager of children and household**
 - reveals the man's track record as a manager
 - that he has the **skills** to be a good manager in the congregation
 - **illus.: Acts 6:1-6** the deacons who managed the food for widows
 - **note:** those who do not have these experiences are not any less a Christian, just not experienced for this task - experienced for other tasks in the church - e.g., Paul, John Mark, Timothy, Titus, others
- **A deacon's reward**
 - **1 Tim. 3:13**
 - **high standing and great confidence in the faith** – similar to elders
 - **their work is not without reward**, and they could be confident in that reward
 - **Matt. 23:11-12 (Jesus)** "But the **greatest among you shall be your servant**. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and **whoever humbles himself shall be exalted**.
 - **a person may not meet a particular qualification, perhaps because not had those experiences in life**, but we can all **serve God to the best of our ability (illus.: Paul)**
- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **prayer**
 - **inv.:** qualities we all strive for