

Series "Entrusted With The Truth"
"Servant Of The Church"
1 Timothy 3:8-13
Study-8

A Local Church has 2 Administrative Offices: The Pastor And The Deacon,
Philippians 1:1

1. The Pastor – 1 Tim 3:1-7 – Overseer (Bishop), Elder, Pastor (Shepherd) are all one in the same.

2. The Deacon – 1 Tim 3:8-13 – Deacons (Servant)

Mark 9:35

Mark 10:43-45

Luke 22:27

Jesus Our Pastor/Shepherd – 1 Peter 2:25

Jesus our Deacon/Servant – Mark 10:45

1. Verses 8-10 – Personal Qualifications:

2. Verses 11-12 – Family Qualifications:

3. Verse 13 – Fruitful Qualifications:

1. Verses 8-10 – Personal Qualifications:

1 Tim 3:8

"Deacons likewise 'must be'" – 1 Timothy 3:2

Note that both the Elder and the Deacon are to be above reproach. 1 Tim 3:10

Deacons – There are 3 different Greek words for servant that describe the office and the service of the deacon. Used over 100X NT.

Doulos – Describes "a bond slave, he is literally a slave that lives to please his master; describes the relationship between the servant and his master."

Diakonos – Describes “the relationship between the servant and his work.”
He must be willing to work!

Diakonia – Describes “service”

“through” and “dust” – The imagery suggests “a man who moves quickly to perform his tasks and who creates a trail of dust by his haste.”

Philippians 1:1

Romans 12:7

Acts 6:1-6

The qualifications for the servant of God are high, Acts 6:3

9 Qualities are Mentioned: (1-4, Observable Conduct in Verse 8)

1. Dignity – “dignity” – (Grave) Biblical usage, speaks of “ethically worthy of respect, stately, and dignified.”
2. Truthful – “not double-tongued” – The term literally means “divided words”, “speaking out of both sides of the mouth”
3. Self-Controlled – “or addicted to much wine” – means “to hold toward,” “to attach oneself to,” or “to be addicted to.”

Romans 14:21

4. Financially Content – “or fond of sordid gain” –The compound term is made up of the word “gain” and the word “shame”; A deacon must not use his office for shameful gain.

1 Timothy 5:9

1 Tim 3:9

5. Orthodox – (Spiritual Life): “but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” A deacon must be biblically sound in both belief and behavior.

1. Servant’s Belief – “but holding to the mystery of the faith”

The word “mystery” is based on an ancient term that conveyed the idea of “shutting the mouth.” The biblical use implies that “what was once silent is now vocal”; “truth once hidden but now revealed by God.”

“the faith” – the body of evangelical truth that forms the bedrock of orthodox Christianity.

2. Servant’s Behavior – “with a clear conscience.” Clear – “cleansed, free from any mixture with impurity, unblemished”

1 Timothy 4:2

2 Corinthians 1:12

1 Tim 3:10

6. Proven – “And let these also first be tested;” (Proven)

“tested;” – scrutiny, the verb was used of “analyzing ore to prove the genuineness and quality of the precious metal.” The test was positive, to prove favorable results.

David –

Levites – started the Levitical apprenticeship at 25 years old, Num 8:24, but did not start serving until 30 years of age, Num 4:2-4

7. Blameless – “then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.” (Blameless) It is a compound word that literally means “not called in.”

2. Verses 11-12 – Family Qualifications:

1 Tim 3:11

There Are 4 Qualities Mentioned:

1. Wives Of Honor – “Women must likewise be dignified,”
2. Wives With Control Of Their Tongues – “not malicious gossips,” – Greek word Diabolos this word, always is translated as “the devil,” a title for Satan, “not an accuser”
3. Wives That Are Sober – “but temperate,” – “sober”
4. Wives That Are Dependable – “faithful in all things.”

1 Tim 3:12

8. Marital Faithfulness – “Deacons must be husbands of only one wife,”
– Literally, the phrase reads “one-woman man”
9. Family Manager – “and good managers of their children and their own households.”

3. Verse 13 – Fruitful Qualifications:

1 Tim 3:13

1. Performance of the Task – “For those who have served well as deacons”
2. Promise of Reward – “obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

Reward Of High Standing: “obtain for themselves a high standing” – “an elevated stand, good degree”; Literally, “Those that are a step above everyone else”

Reward Great Confidence: “great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.” The term confidence stresses “a freedom of speech.”

Application:

1. Jesus Is Our Great Example To Follow As The Great Shepherd, And The Great Servant.
2. God’s Supreme Concern Regarding His Servants Is Character. Good Service Flows From Godly Character.
3. A Servant Must Be Orthodox In Belief And Behavior.
4. A Servant’s Home Life Is The Great Revealer Of Whether The Servant Can Effectively Serve The Church Of God.