

## Why does Vision need deacons?

I Timothy 3:8 **Likewise** *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also **first be proved**; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless. 11 **Even so must their wives** *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### 1. Because Jesus hates the doctrine of the Nicolaitans

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

- a. Along with many other bad doctrines and behaviors the Nicolaitans were people who wanted rank and privilege among God's people
- b. The word means to conquer the people

- c. It seems that they may have been a group that lorded it over the church and stole their liberty in Christ
- d. This is similar to Diotrephes [III John 9](#) I wrote unto the church: but **Diotrephes**, who loveth to have the **preeminence** among them, receiveth us not. [10](#) Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, **neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.** [11](#) Beloved, follow not *that which is evil*, but *that which is good*. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.
- e. The Nicolaitans initiated a false division in the church, clergy and laity.
- f. The anointed and the non anointed
- g. Yet all of God's people are kings and priests [I Peter 2:9](#) **But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,** an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: [Revelation 1:6](#) And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his

Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever.  
Amen.

h. We all have equal access **Hebrews 10:19** **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,** **20** By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; **21** And *having* an high priest over the house of God; **22** **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) **24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Biblically there is little difference between the bishop, the deacon, and the regular member of the church. We all ought to be God's people.

3. As a basic Baptist distinctive we believe in the priesthood of the believer
4. Another basic Baptist distinctive is individual soul liberty
5. I want Vision to stand clearly for strong laymen that love their church and lead it forward
6. I want you to take ownership of this church, you are not renters, you are owners
7. There ought never be an inferiority complex on the part of God's people.