

THE OFFICE OF DEACON

1 Timothy 3:8-12

Intro: Today we have installed a new deacon. I want to look at what the Scripture teaches about the office of a deacon and the NT teaching concerning local church leadership.

- I. Deacon-the word and the meaning
- A. Greek word-διάκονος (di ak on os)
 - B. English words used in the NT for the same Greek word
 1. Servant-7 x's
 2. Minister-20 x's [Two of those in reference to satan's ministers, 2 Corinthians 11:15]
 3. Deacon-3 x's
 4. As is gathered from the English words in Scripture, a deacon is one who serves and ministers to others as a _____ of the Lord, usually within the framework of the local church.
- II. Qualifications for a deacon according to 1 Timothy 3:8-12
- A. *Grave*-a man worthy of _____; a man of dignity **Vs 8a**
 - B. *Not double-tongued*-not _____ one thing and doing something else; or saying one thing with one person and something entirely different to another person **Vs 8b**
 - C. *Not given to much wine*-not one who is controlled by alcohol. **Vs 8c**
 1. **Eph 5:18** *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit,*
 2. That which controls the deacon's behavior should be the Holy Spirit, not _____ spirits
 - D. *Not greedy of filthy lucre*-not having an uncontrollable _____ for money **Vs 8d**
 1. Because the love of money is a root of all _____ of evil **1 Tim 6:10**
 2. Because deacons are sometimes _____ with spending the church's money
 - E. *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience* **Vs 9**
 1. This would reflect his gravity mentioned in **verse 8**
 2. Holding as sacred the truths of Scripture in his _____ without intentionally violating them
 3. Remaining _____, in words and actions, to Scripture's teaching concerning the Christian faith
 - F. *And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless* **Vs 10**
 1. The deacon must be one who has proven himself to the local body in which he will serve as a true _____ of the Lord first before ever being a servant of the local body of believers
 2. The deacon is to be a man with _____ maturity
 3. The deacon is to be a man with "life experiences under his belt"
 - G. *Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife*-the deacon is to be literally a _____-wife man. He is to have no more than one wife at a time. In Bible times men often had more than one wife at a time **Vs 12a**
 - H. *Ruling their children and their own houses well*-his wife, his children and his household affairs should be a good _____ of what a Christian home ought to look like **Vs 12b**
 1. *Rule*-to be over, to _____, preside over; to be a _____ or guardian; to care for, give attention to
 2. *Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.* **Vs 11**
 - a. *Grave*-the same characteristic as that of the deacon himself; spiritual _____ in her behavior and lifestyle

- b. *Not slanderers*-She has a Godly _____ that is not guilty of falsely accusing people. " *While men are more prone to be double-tongued, women are more prone than men to be slanderers*" Robertson Word Pictures
- c. *Sober*-Serious minded about her _____ as a wife, mother and the wife of a deacon
- d. *Faithful in all things*-one who can be _____ upon to arise to the occasions that being a deacon's wife will call for. Faithfully performing her responsibility to help her husband's service the local body of believers over which he has been called to be a deacon.

III. Deacons and Local Church Leadership

- A. By _____ a pastor and deacons to serve in the local church, the church congregation has placed those people in the roll of church leaders. And as thus are responsible to the church leadership according to the Scripture.
- B. **Hebrews 13:17** *Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*
 - 1. Those elected to the spiritual leadership of the local church have a responsibility to:
 - a. _____ over the spiritual condition of the body as a whole and individually
 - 1. **Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,
 - 2. Keep a _____ watch, much like the shepherd "watched" over the sheep so as to protect them from the _____ around them and from their own _____
 - b. Give an _____
 - 1. _____ what to each other what they know about the spiritual condition and behavior of the individual members of the _____
 - 2. Report to the _____ what they see and know about the spiritual condition and behavior of the individual members of the flock
 - 2. As such, the "flock" have a responsibility to _____ the leadership of those they have elected.
 - a. So that the report the leadership gives to each other, and the Lord will be a cause for _____, and not for _____
 - b. So that when the "flock" individually stands before the Lord they will be _____ and not suffer _____ due to their resistance to the elected church leadership. **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; ¹³And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

Concl: **Vs 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.* Those who serve Christ _____ as church leadership bring glory to God and hopefully have generated a good testimony in the eyes of those they have served. They do not have to be _____ of their service, nor the results that their faithfulness to Christ has brought.