



## What Are Deacons? Part 3 | 1 Timothy 3:8-13 | 5/14/23

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### **Debate: Wives of deacons or female deacons? (continued)**

An Important Question: Does the office of deacon possess an authority that Paul has prohibited for women in the church?

- 1 Timothy 2:12 (ESV) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man...
  - Prohibits not only teaching, also exercising authority over a man (very general)
- The diaconate seems to possess a kind of pastoral authority
  - The word itself implies authority (Διακόνος)
  - The office exercises delegated pastoral authority
  - Deacons commonly exercise authority in their duties
- The flow of 1 Timothy 3 also seems to rule against female deacons

**Another Debate:** Husband of one wife (12a; lit. “one woman men” μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἄνδρες,)

- No polygamists allowed (doubtful)
- Marriage is required (No bachelors allowed)
  - Cf. 1 Cor 7:32-35, Matt 19:12
- No remarriage allowed (only one wife ever)
  - Biblical divorce: Matt. 5:32; 19:9; 1 Cor. 7:15
  - Biblical remarriage: 1 Cor. 7:9, 39; Rom. 7:2–3

- “One woman type of man” (marital fidelity/chastity)

Managing their children and their own households well (12b)

The promise: Good standing and great confidence in the faith (13)

Can a man's past disqualify him from office?

- What are these qualifications?
- Seeking balance between reality and repentance (1 Cor 6:9-11)

Conclusion

Next Steps

1. The church depends on the service of the saints. How would the Lord want you to grow in your service (e.g. regularity, quality, new service)?
2. Men: Is there anything about your character that would not be qualified for the diaconate? Pray about and pursue growth in these areas.
3. Do you encourage and respect those who serve in the church? Make a regular point to do so and to pray for them as well.