

Sermon Text: 1 Timothy 3:8-13 Deacon Ministry

As leading servants in the Church, Deacons are to assist the Elders in administrating the Church's self-sacrifice with respectable character for godly gain.

1) Deacon Ministry: Administrating self-sacrifice (Acts 6:1-3)

- a) "Daily distribution" (v. 1)—church funds made available through deep sacrifice (Acts 4:34-37)
- b) "Serve tables" (v. 2)—administrate these self-sacrificing gifts (Rom. 12:1)
- c) "Duty" (v. 3)—need; necessity
 - i) The priestly duty of every Christian is to give his life a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (Rom. 12:1). The Deacons, like the Levites of old, serve alongside of the believer-priests to administrate the sacrifice.
 - ii) The love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit flows from us and is distributed under the care of the deacons.
 - iii) Deacons are called to help the church manifest the life of the Kingdom of God.
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Who do you know with a heart for the poor and needy? Who is already engaged in service to those in need?
 - ii) Deacons, how can Cross Creek more effectively minister to the needs in our Church and broader community? How can you organize and energize the whole body for loving service?

2) Deacon Character (1 Timothy 3:8-12):

- i) Hold on self (3:8): a) Dignified; b) Not double-tongued; c) Not addicted to much wine; d) Not greedy for dishonest gain
- b) Hold on faith (3:9-10)
 - i) Mystery of the faith—revealed religion
 - ii) Clear conscience—more than lip-service
 - iii) Tested/Proved Blameless
- c) Hold on Household (3:11-12)
 - i) Deacon's Wife
 - ii) Deacon's Husbandry
 - iii) Deacon's Parenting
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Who strikes you as being "under good management"? Who has a firm grasp of the Truth and deep reverence for God's Word? Who has a household that is a microcosm of what you'd like to see for the church?
 - ii) Deacons, are you manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in self-control (Gal. 5:22-23)? Are you growing in Bible knowledge and in your ability to articulate sound theology and ethics? Are you loving your wife as Christ loved the Church? Are you discipling your children?

3) Deacon Rewards (3:13)

- a) Good Standing (Matt. 25:23)
- b) Great Confidence (1 Cor. 13:7-8)
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Who do you know that can work without recognition? Who is energized by serving others?
 - ii) Deacons, how are you overcoming discouragement in ministry?
 - iii) Pray!

Doxology: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. (Psalm 48:1-2)