

Deacons: and Elder and Deacon Wives

Sermon 4 3/4/18

Acts 6:1-7

1 Timothy 3:8-13

I. The First Deacons 6:1-7

A. The Problem Itself v. 1-2

B. The Solution v. 3-4

“Look out among yourselves.”

“Choose quality men – and we will appoint them.”

The qualifications are given – and the qualifications are all spiritual!

1. Good reputation – we saw that with elders last week.
2. Full of the Holy Spirit – these were to be spiritual men.
3. Full of wisdom

C. The Outcome 5-7

The church continued to grow!

A Deacons Primary job description is **ELDER-HELPER**.

Deacons do the work

Deacons delegate the work

Deacons oversee, direct and administer the work of the church.

This frees the elders to serve their primary purpose – Prayer and the Word.

II. Qualifications for Deacons - 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12-13

v. 6 – stresses the importance of humility for an Elder.

The same goes for the office of Deacon – pride will destroy a man.

1. Reverent (Dignified)

Worthy of respect.

2. Not double-tongued

Not saying one thing to one person and another to someone else.

A Deacon must be a man of his word – and this often takes humility --

when he needs to make a correction or even ask forgiveness – he must do so.

3. Not addicted to much wine

He's not a drunkard. He doesn't linger long at the wine.
God demands His people – especially his officer-bearers to be clear-headed and not addicts living under bondage.

4. Not greedy

Obviously, if you are going to be handling money!
In the church – Deacons handle the money – and it is a grave responsibility.
Remember – Judas wasn't the last treasurer who betrayed his Lord for silver.

5. Orthodox Theology v.9

6. Tested and Proven Men v. 10

Well-known by your congregation.
Already serving in the ways you can.
Already doing the job you are now called to do by office.
Continue in the things you have done that caused the congregation to recognize you in the first place.

III. The Wife of an Elder or Deacon – 1 Timothy 3:11

Who are these “wives”? – Greek word for women.

- 1) The wives of deacons
- 2) The office of deaconess.
- 3) Women who serve (minister to) other women in the church.

v. 12 -- Notice, both elders and deacons are to be the husband of one wife.

Both are to have orderly homes with obedient children.

This assumes that the Deacon is married.

It is not a qualification that he must be married.

The Qualifications for the wives:

1. **Reverent or Dignified** – worthy of respect – just like their husbands.
2. **Not Slanderers** – she controls her tongue – she doesn't gossip.
3. **Sober-minded** – discreet, temperate, self-controlled. (Elder Q. also)
4. **Faithful in all Things** – That's comprehensive!

Conclusion: The promise for faithful Deacons – v. 13