

Theme: A Deacon's life should reflect the Savior he serves for Jesus "came not to be served but to serve...." If a Deacon is to serve well, he must lead his life in such that others will not only trust him but emulate him as well.

Background and Introduction: The church needs faithful leaders. Overseers, we have considered. And today we turn to the qualifications of a Deacon. The role of Deacons in the church ranges from "invisible" to "all-powerful." But where is their real power and place?

## I. The Model

- A. Christ, the good Shepherd – The model for Overseers/Elders (John 10; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25)
- B. Christ, the Servant – The model for Deacons
  - 1. Christ's own calling – To serve, not to be served (Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27; John 13:1-15)
  - 2. His followers calling (Mark 10:43, 44)
    - a. The Apostles – servants of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:23; 4:1)
    - b. Paul – a servant of the church (Romans 11:13, 14; Colossians 1:25)
    - c. The believers?
      - 1.) Timothy (1 Timothy 4:6)
      - 2.) Humble servants all! (Ephesians 4:12)

## II. The Man

- A. His character
  - 1. Like their Elder brothers – doing work the Elders would do if there were no Deacons.
  - 2. A dignified man (8)
    - a. NOT double-tongued
      - 1.) Saying one thing, doing another
      - 2.) Their word is trustworthy
    - b. NOT addicted to much wine  
NOTE: Like the Overseers: balance
    - c. NOT greedy for dishonest gain – trusted with money (as well as with wine)
- B. His faith (9)
  - 1. Holding the mystery of the faith (9a)
    - a. Mystery of the gospel?
      - 1.) God comes robed in human flesh
      - 2.) Perfect, complete forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7-9)
      - 3.) Drawing people from the ends of the earth (Ephesians 3:6)
      - 4.) "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27)
    - b. Sharing those mysteries with others
  - 2. With a clear conscience (9b) – His "profession" and "walk" are consistent
  - 3. Tested first (10)
    - a. Like the Overseer – not young in the faith
    - b. Tested in life and observed
- C. His family
  - 1. "Their wives" – "Wives" or "Women" or "Deaconesses" (ASIDE: We will take up this discussion more fully in the near future. But I believe "wives" is the most appropriate.) – Their support, both in their physical assistance and confidentiality, is vital to the Deacons' work.
  - 2. His marriage – In fidelity and sexual purity
  - 3. His household – Evidence of spiritual (and practical) leadership

### III. The Fruit (13)

#### A. For the Deacon

1. A good standing – Sharing in the respect of the congregation
2. Confidence – Great confidence in the power of Christ

NOTE: Boldness, confidence, assurance in the faith? It is given to those who serve. It doesn't come through endless introspection and self-focus.

#### B. For the Church

The servant leaders and the leading servants of the church set an example in faith, life, and practice that will guide the whole church. The church will reflect the leaders they choose.

Therefore, it is imperative that the church heed well the instructions given for those who will fill these offices in the church. For the fruit will be seen in a few years and felt for many years to come.