

Subject: *The Biblical Role of a Deacon*
Scripture: *1 Timothy 3:1-15*

The first word in verse 8 is “likewise” which refers to what Paul wrote about the role of a pastor in verses 1-7. The church has two biblical offices: pastor and deacon.

1. The integrity of a deacon

Verse 8, “grave” means serious. He is serious about the Lord, his family, and the church. Verse 9, “not double-tongued” literally means a man of divided words or a double-talker. Verse 9 also tells us he must be self-controlled (not controlled by alcohol or money). Verse 10, “blameless” means above reproach or free from accusation.

2. The maturity of a deacon

Verse 9 – He must be grounded in the Scriptures and the Christian faith. He knows what he believes and why he believes it. He must also have a pure conscience. In other words, he knows that he lives by what he believes. He is not a hypocrite. His behavior matches up his beliefs. It is important for a deacon to be “proven” (vs. 10) or tested over time.

3. The family of a deacon

Verse 10 – His wife must have good character and must support his ministry as a deacon. Verse 11 – He must be committed to his wife and be a faithful leader of his family.

4. The ministry of a deacon

Verse 10 – The office of a deacon is not only to be honored; it is to be used (see vs. 13). The office of a deacon is a privilege, but it is more than that. It is an opportunity and a responsibility. If you look through this passage you don’t see anything about a deacon’s ministry. The focus is clearly on the man and his character and not the ministry.

What is the ministry of a deacon? To serve the Lord and His church. The phrase “use the office of a deacon” is actually one word in the Greek, *diakoneo*, and it is found over 30 times in the NT. Most of the time it is translated “to minister or serve” as in *Mark 10:45* *For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

The word “deacon” can be broken down into two words meaning “through the dust.” A deacon is a servant who moves through the dusty paths and streets to follow his master and fulfill his duties. The first deacons were chosen in *Acts 6:1-7*.

In this passage we see several important things about the ministry of deacons and the difference they can make in a church. The church had a problem (vs. 1). The church had a plan (vs. 2-6). This was a good plan because they had the right priorities and the right people. As a result of this plan God blessed the church in every way (vs. 7). The deacons were problem-solvers, burden-bearers, difference-makers. I’m thankful for the deacons God has given to us and I know you are too. Let’s pray for them, love and support them and encourage them all we can. I know these men. They are good men and they have been a special blessing and will be a blessing to our church for years to come.