

Deacons: *Ministers of Mercy*

1 Timothy 3:8-13 Message

Deacons must possess proven character personally and in their home

1 Timothy 3:8-13

- I. Deacons must have proven personal character (8-10)
- II. Deacons must have proven character in the home (11-12)
- III. Serving well brings them honor and increasing boldness in their faith (13)

“Deacon, servant” (*diakonos*)



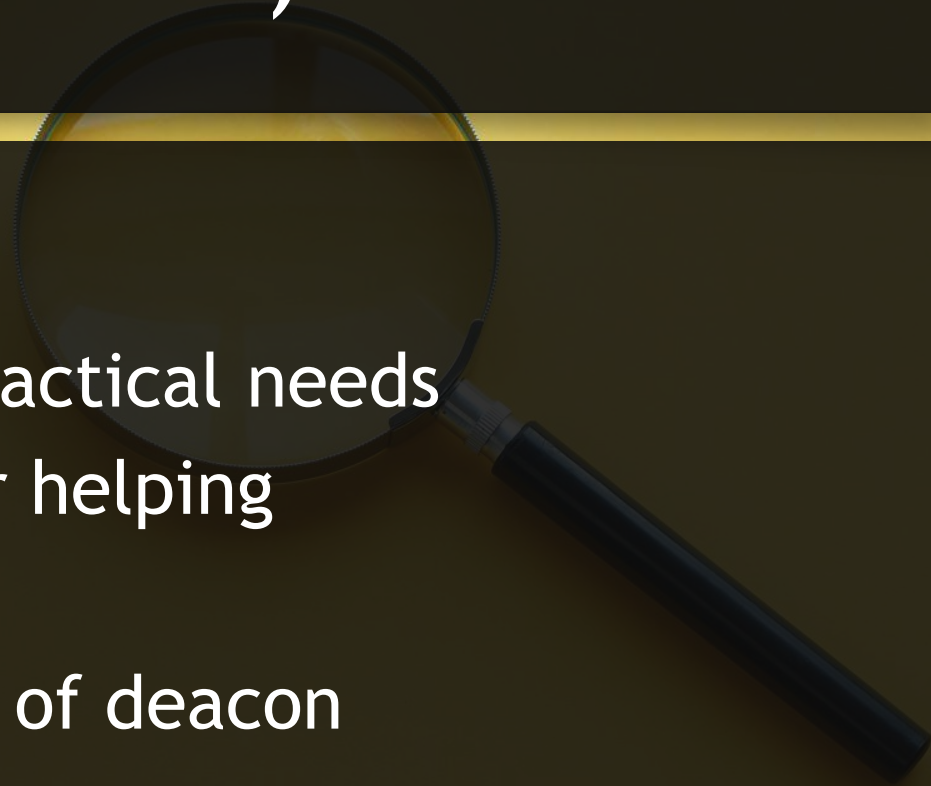
Three basic uses in the NT:

1. Those who serve to meet practical needs
 - a. Serving food (Jn 2:5; 12:2)
 - b. Serving in civil government (Rom 13:4)
 - c. All believers serve one another (Eph 4:12)

“Deacon, servant” (*diakonos*)

Three basic uses in the NT:

1. Those who serve to meet practical needs
2. Those with gift of serving or helping
(Rom 12:7; 1 Cor 12:28)
3. Men who serve in the office of deacon
(1 Tim 3:8-13)



Men of dignity - worthy of respect, honorable, men of integrity with self-control

Not double-tongued (hypocrite) - Must have integrity in his speech, being sincere and truthful

Not addicted to much wine - Knows when to stop and does

Not fond of sordid gain - Not greedy for money

Negative

Qualifications for Deacons

Men of dignity - worthy of respect, honorable, men of integrity with self-control

Holding to the mystery of the faith - His life is consistent with the truth of Scripture

Clear Conscience - Conscience doesn't condemn him in his moral integrity

Beyond Reproach - General term summarizing all these requirements

Positive

Qualifications for Deacons

1 Tim 3:11

✓ Deacon's wives
or
women deacons?

Deacons' wives serving alongside husbands, need similar character

Deacon is a position of authority
(Acts 6:3; 1 Tim 2:12)

If a woman deacon, why not required to be “a one-man woman”?
(1 Tim 3:2, 12, 5:9)

“*Gunaikas*” can mean “women” or “wives” (1 Tim 3:12)

Dignified - worthy of respect

Not malicious gossips - Crucial that they control their tongues

Temperate - Sober-minded, having balanced judgment and exercising self-control

Faithful in all things - trustworthy, reliable, dependable

Qualifications for Deacons' Wives

Proven character in the home

Husbands of one wife - “a one-woman man”, his wife has 100% of his affections

Good managers of their children and households - Must have an orderly home

Qualifications for Deacons

“Their work demands spiritual power and faith. Deacons need spiritual vitality and life. Do not underestimate the potential influence the diaconate can have on the local church. Deacons can do mighty deeds for God and His people...They can profoundly influence the congregation. They can be living examples of Christlike compassion and mercy.”

The need
for
increasing
boldness in
the
deacon's
faith

(Alexander Strauch, *The New Testament Deacon*, p. 151)