1 TIMOTHY 3:8–13

Healthy Living Together: God's Plan for a Thriving and Flourishing Church, Part 2

Deacons

1 TIMOTHY 3:8–13

1. Who Deacons Are
2. What Deacons Do
3. How the Church Responds

DIAKONOS

What a Deacon Isn’t (and Is)

1

Not an Elder

No spiritual authority over the church

2

Not an Elder in Training

Not the minor leagues of eldership

3

A Servant

Set apart to meet the church’s practical needs

Elders serve by leading. Deacons lead by serving.

VERSE 8

Self-Controlled Lifestyle

1. Dignified
2. Not Double-Tongued
3. Not Addicted to Much Wine
4. Not Greedy for Dishonest Gain

VERSES 9–10, 12

Gospel Conviction, Proven Character

1 **Holds the Faith**

Knows the bible and gospel truths

2 **Tested First**

Is already functioning as a deacon

3 **Husband of One Wife**

Faithful in marriage

4 **Manages Household Well**

Children and home in order

ACTS 6

What Deacons Do

Serve	Unify	Care	Meet Needs
Absorb Shocks	Block for Elders	Protect the Word	Reflect Christ

Why This Text Does Not Support Women Deacons

1. Awkward, choppy flow of ideas
2. Only men were chosen in Acts 6
3. Paul coins new words freely — why not “deaconess”?
4. “Deacons may exercise some authority (see 1 Tim 2)
5. Husband of one wife” (v. 12) assumes men
6. Why repeat “dignified” if v. 8 already covers all deacons?

Why This Text Does Support Women Deacons

1. Clear structure: all deacons (vv. 8–10), women (v. 11), men (v. 12), all (v. 13)
2. The Seven in Acts 6 model deacons but weren't the office
3. "Their" is added – it's not in the original Greek
4. No command to submit to deacons — it is not a ruling office
5. Phoebe: "a deacon of the church at Cenchreae" (Rom 16:1)
6. Why have a higher threshold for deacons' wives but not elders' wives?

HOLDING CONVICTIONS CHARITABLY

Not Every Doctrine Carries the Same Weight

First Order

Divides Christian from non-Christian

The deity of Jesus

Second Order

Shapes which church you may attend

Baptism

Third Order

Should never divide a church

Women deacons, end times

How the Church Responds

1. Selfless service to one another

2. Active worship of Jesus together

Ways to Serve at GBC

- Prayer!
- Nursery
- Front door security
- Landscaping
- Worship team
- Front door greeter
- Facilities – related care
- Visiting homebound members
- Preparing Lord’s Supper
- Serving widows
- Preparing the bulletin
- Decorating/creative design
- Update GBC website content
- Audio/Visual
- Babysitting so young parents have a night out
- Writing thank you notes
- Prepare coffee
- Run errands for those in need

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