

DEACONS MINISTRY
AND BEING BAPTIST
- I Timothy 3:8-13

Tonight we'll consider the deacons ministry of service.

I. THE USE OF "DEACON" TERMINOLOGY

A. DISTINCTIVES

1. Serving: Their motto should be "Meet needs!"
2. Not Governing

B. DEMONSTRATIONS

1. Peter's mother-in-law waited on Jesus - Matt. 8:14-15
2. Great disciples meet other's needs - Matt. 20:25-28
3. Ladies ministered to Jesus' needs - Matt. 28:55
4. Some were serving tables - Acts 6:1-2
5. Paul provided emergency relief funds for Jerusalem - Rom. 15:25-28
6. Phoebe is one who served the church and helped many - Rom. 16:1-2
7. Tychicus served by reporting about Paul to the church of Ephesus - Eph. 6:21

II. AN EXAMPLE OF DEACON-LIKE SERVICE - Acts 6:1-6

A. THE CONGREGATIONAL PROBLEM (1)

B. THE APOSTOLIC ACTIONS (2-4)

- The leaders led by providing insights

C. THE CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE (5)

D. THE SERVANT'S COMMISSION (6)

E. THE SERVANT'S DUTY

- Serve food at the tables

III. **DEACON QUALIFICATIONS** - I Timothy 3:8-12

A. HIS CHARACTER (8a, 10)

1. Dignified (8a)
2. Beyond Reproach (10)
 - a. First tested: A command [Pres. pass. impv.]
 - b. Then assessed: Are they beyond reproach?

B. HIS CONDUCT (8b)

- Practicing self-control

 1. Not double-tongued
 2. Not addicted to much wine
 3. Not fond of sordid gain

C. HIS COMPREHENSION (9)

- A deacon is one who is to have a good grasp of Biblical truth

D. HIS HOUSEHOLD (12)

1. An exemplary husband
 - a. A devoted husband: Faithful in his role as a husband.
 - b. A one-women husband: Not divorced or promiscuous.
2. A good parent
 - a. Involved with his children
 - b. Maintaining a relationship with each one > knowing about them
3. A skillful overseer
 - a. Standing at the head of his household and presiding over it in an excellent manner.
 - b. Skillfully governing in his God-given position in the home

IV. **DEACON RECOGNITION** - I Tim. 3:13

A. CONDITION: If he serves well

B. CONSEQUENCES: They obtain for themselves

1. A High Standing
 - The esteem of fellow Christians
2. Great Boldness
 - Faithfully trusting and telling of Christ

V. DEACONESS CONSIDERATIONS

A. THE INDIVIDUALS - I Tim. 3:11a

B. THEIR QUALIFICATIONS - I Tim. 3:11

1. Dignified: Appropriately committed to her tasks
2. Not gossiping maliciously
3. Temperate: In control of her emotions.
4. Faithful: Absolutely reliable and trustworthy.

C. SOME EXAMPLES

1. Phoebe in Rom. 16:1-2
2. Euodia and Syntyche in Phil. 4:2-3

D. APPLICATION

- In our church ...

1. They prepare communion
2. They assist with baptisms
3. They counsel Christians
4. They visit the sick and shut-ins
5. They oversee the staffing of the nursery

CONCLUSION

A well organized church is governed by is:

1. Governed by it's members
2. Lead by it's pastor(s)
3. Served by it's deacons

God's goal for our church and every church is that we might function in unity

- As we draw closer to Christ we will draw closer to each other

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- I Corinthians 12:12-13

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