

## QUALIFICATION OF DEACONS

We have divided 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, chapter three into three sections for study on Church Leadership.

- (1 Tim.3:1-7) Qualification of Overseer
- (1 Tim.3:8-13) Qualification of Deacons
- (1 Tim.3:14-16) Advise on Assembly Behavior

Biblical application of qualifications of Overseer (1 Tim.3:1-7) and Deacons (1 Tim.3:8-13) are both important to the influence of the church in the nation, and in the world (Matt.5:13-16; 28:18-20).

The Greek word for deacon is diakonos and refers to a servant from stand point of service.

**This lesson will study five aspects of the Qualification of Deacons.**

### **1. There are five things to understand about the biblical selection of deacons from 1 Tim.3:8-13.**

#### **Six qualifications** (1 Tim.3:8-13)

- (1 Tim.3:8) Dignity (semnos0 [serious-minded])
- (1 Tim.3:9) Holding the mystery (to musterion) [Church Age Doctrines] of the faith in a clear conscience
- (1 Tim.3:10) Above reproach (anegkletos) [blameless]
- (1 Tim.3:12) Husband of one wife (heis gune)
- (1 Tim.3:12) Manage (proistemi) his children well
- (1 Tim.3:12) Manage his household (oikos) well

#### **Three disqualifications** (1 Tim.3:8)

- Not double-tongued (dilogos)
- Not given to much wine (prosecho/ p.a.ptc.aplm)
- Not greedy of filthy lure (aischrokerdes)

#### **Responsibility of the Church** toward the deacon candidates.

(1 Tim.3:10) “These men must also **first be tested** (dokimazo/ p.p.impv.3pl); then let them serve as deacons (diakoneo/ p.m.impv.3pl).”

#### **Divine reward to deacons** who serve the Lord and His church well

(1 Tim.3:13) “For those who serve well as deacons obtain (peripoieo/ p.m.ind.3pl) for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

### **2. Hosautos (comparative adverb) [likewise] is used two times as Greek markers (1 Tim.3:8, 11).**

- (1 Tim.3:8) deacons (diakonos/ aplm) likewise (1 Tim.3:2) **must** (deo/ p.ind.3ps) **be** (eimi/ p.infin)
- (1 Tim.3:11) women (wives/ gune/ aplf) likewise must be (1 Tim.3:2) [the same]

The word deacon is used in every Greek sentence of (1 Tim.3:8-9, 10, 12 and 13) [**except 1 Tim.3:11**].

The Greek word diakonos (deacon) dominates this passage.

There is no verb in (1 Tim.3:11) except the italicized substitute [must be] of (1 Tim.3:12); yet (1 Tim.13:11) ends with a period. This means that (1 Tim.3:11) is attached to the context of (1 Tim.3:8-13) and the selection of deacon.

**3. (1 Tim.3:11) has been the cause of much confusion regarding the appointment of church leadership.**

Many interpret [likewise] (hosautos) plus [must be] of (1 Tim.3:12) to be three offices of church leadership.

- **Three offices** of church leadership: overseers and deacons and women. Many use Phoebe as an example of women deacons (Rom.16:1) (servant of church).
- **Two offices** of church leadership: overseer and deacons and wives of deacons. Others use Priscilla and Aquila as examples of a husband and wife deacon team (Rom.16:3; 1 Cor.16:19; 2 Tim.4:19) (home church ministry).

**4. If Paul wanted to make a third category, his pattern would have been to place it in a third category after deacon as he did with deacon after overseer.**

Whether **gune** is interpreted woman or wife is determined by context. Paul connected **gune** with wife in (1 Tim.3:11) and (1 Tim.3:12) regarding married deacons.

As pastor of DSBC, I have taken it to apply to deacons who are married. Therefore, the process of selection and examination of deacons in DSBC include their wives. They serve along-side him as deacon.

We view them as a team like Priscilla and Aquila serving the church (1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:27; 1 Tim.2:12).

**5. There are three qualifications and one disqualification in the examination of the wife that qualify or disqualify the husband from holding the office of Deacon.**

**Three qualifications:**

- Dignity (semnos)
- Sober (nephalios) [temperate]
- Faithful (pistos) [in all things]

**One disqualification**

- Not malicious gossips (diabolos)