

## **QUALIFYING DEACONS**

**There are six areas, twelve qualifications, and five disqualifications (Not) for deacons of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 3:8-13).**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Spiritual Personal Qualification is “Men of Dignity” (1 Tim.3:8).**

- Not doubled-tongued refers to pattern of sins of the tongue (gossip, slander, etc.) (James 3:1-18).
- Not addicted to much wine refers to pattern of alcohol or drugs (Eph.5:18; Rom.14:1-25).
- Not fond of sordid gain is refers to greed and covetousness (Col.3:5-10; John 12:1-6).

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Spiritual Growth Qualification is “Holding to the Mystery of the Faith” (1 Tim.3:9).**

- Holding to mystery of faith refers to consistency walking by means of faith by cycling new covenant doctrines by faith (Col.2:6-7; 2 Cor.5:7) (faith not sight).
- Holding to clear conscience refers to consistency in walking by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal.5:16-17; Titus 1:15) [Holy Spirit not flesh] (the old sin-nature) (OSN).

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Spiritual Testing Qualification is “First be Tested” (1 Tim.3:10) (dokiimazo/ p.p.impv.3pl).**

- Not a new convert, but one able to be tested by (1 Cor.10:13) and (Act 6:3) (1 Tim.3:6-7).
- They must be above reproach to serve (diakoneo/ p.a.impv.3pl) faithfully the Lord’s church (Acts 20:28).

**4<sup>th</sup> – Spiritual Qualification of wife is “Women (gune/aplf) (1 Tim.3:2, 12) likewise of Dignity” (1 Tim.3:11)**

No verb in this Greek sentence. The only sentence where the word deacon is not used, meaning that it is attached to (1 Tim.3:8-13).

- Not a malicious gossiper referring to a pattern of sins of the tongue.
- Temperate refers to over-indulgence of the flesh (the old sin-nature) (OSN) whether alcohol, drugs, food, exercise.
- Faithful in all things pertaining to church affairs along with her deacon husband (marriage).

**5<sup>th</sup> – Spiritual Qualification regarding the husband and father (1 Tim.3:12) [Family].**

- Husband of one wife refers to properly married and biblically remarried.
- Good manager of their children refers to **leading** his children in Lord and in the Church.
- Good manager of their own household refers to **leading** the affairs of his household without being neglectful of priorities and time and needs. Children under roof and parental authority.

**6<sup>th</sup> – Spiritual Reward is for Honorable Service as Deacon of the Church of Lord.**

(1 Tim.3:13) “For those **who serve well as Deacons.**” (Serving well is spelled out in context).

- Obtain for themselves a high standing refers to spiritual reputation among the Churches of Jesus Christ.
- Obtain for themselves great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus refers to their influence within the Churches of Lord Jesus Christ.