

**LESSON #13**  
**QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS**

**TEXT: I Timothy 3:8-13**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The word "deacon" is from the Greek word DIAKONOS, and means a waiter, attendant, servant or minister.

Deacons are, as their name indicates, servants; but in that all Christians are servants. (**Romans 12:1**). Deacons are to be special servants under, as is the entire congregation, the oversight of the elders. There is no special area that they must serve in the physical part of the church's work, but they can serve in any capacity appointed by the elders, including preaching and teaching.

In **Acts 6:1-6** we find that seven men were appointed to look after the Grecian widows. It is not known that these men were formerly recognized as deacons and yet the work must have been similar to that to be done by deacons since the same Greek work is used with reference to their work. These men were selected by the congregation and then appointed by the apostles. The performance of the work for which they were selected constituted the full measure of special responsibility.

Those who are selected to do this work must have the following qualifications:

**1. MUST BE GRAVE**

- a. Of good character
- b. Must be an individual who will take his responsibilities seriously, Not lightly.

**2. NOT DOUBLE-TONGUED**

- a. Saying one thing with one person, another with another, with intent to deceive
- b. Not talking to suit present company. c. Have convictions, stand by them.

**3. NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE**

- a. Forbids its use socially, or for anything other than medicinal purposes.
- b. Cannot be determined that the wine Paul suggested to Timothy was the intoxicating kind (I Timothy 5:23).

**4. NOT GREEDY OF FILTHY LUCRE**

- a. Greedy of base gains.
- b. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. c. Seek after money by dishonorable means.

**5. HOLDING THE MYSTERY OF THE FAITH IN A PURE CONSCIENCE**

- a. Means to hold fast, to hold on to, to adhere to, a belief or position,
- b. Not wishy-washy concerning the faith.

**6. BE PROVED**

- a. Tested as to ability, life, conduct, sincerity, steadfastness.
- b. Active in the work of the church.

**7. BLAMELESS**

- a. Live so that no evil charge can be sustained.

**8. WIVES BE GRAVE, NOT SLANDERERS, SOBER, FAITHFUL**

- a. Sound in life and in faith; not tale-bearers; serious mind; in the Lord's work.

**9. HUSBANDS OF ONE WIFE**

- a. Must have one.

**10. RULE THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR HOUSES WELL.**

- a. House refers to the whole family.
- b. Children in subjection (Ephesians 6:4).
- c. Ideal family relationships help to qualify a man for service in the household of faith.

**I Timothy 3:13 - 'For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.'**

## **THE WORK OF DEACONS**

The work of deacons is not given in detail in the New Testament, but is generally understood they are to look after the physical needs of the church.

Any work that needs to be done in the congregation, which the elders can delegate to the deacons and which is within the range of their qualifications, would be a work for deacons.

What are the needs of the church, which can be met by men with these qualifications?

**Benevolence**  
**Buildings-Grounds**  
**Communication**  
**Education**  
**Evangelism**  
**Financial Matters**  
**Worship**  
**Youth**

One of the characteristics that every Christian should cultivate, is that of participation in some phase of the work of the church. Christianity must embody the principle of service, for our Lord came to minister unto man (**Matthew 20:28**). The deacon is a servant, but so are we all.