



The Qualifications of Their Wives/Women

**We will look at who is being talked
about and the qualities they must
possess written in 1Tim 3:11**

Likewise...

- n "Women must likewise be ..." NASB95
- n "*Likewise, their wives must be ...*" NKJV
- n "*In the same way, women must be...*" NCV
- n "*In the same way, their wives are to be...*" NIV
- n "Women—in like manner..." YLT
- n "Their wives also must be..." GNB
- n "Women must also be..." CEV
- n "Their wives likewise must be..." ESV

Likewise Women or Their Wives?

- n **Position of Overseer...An overseer must be...man of one woman...**
- n **Likewise deacons...must be man of one woman**
- n **γυναῖκας (women) ὡσαύτως (likewise) ~ this occurs in the middle of the qualifications listed for deacons**
- n **Notice there is no position mentioned for these women, only that whatever women we are talking about must meet certain qualifications.**
- n **For those who see these qualifications applying to women in general, they usually believe it applies to an office similar to deacons but for women, i.e. deaconess.**
- n **Could this be a female deaconess in the church?**

General Use and Appointed Office

- n The term deacon is used of Paul and Apollos (1Cor 3:5), Timothy (1Tim 4:6), and Christians (Jn 12:26). Most of these would not fit the qualifications given of deacons in 1Timothy 3, therefore the term deacon must be used in at least two ways.**
- n The term elder is used of an older person and also for a position appointed in the church, and the term deacon is used of someone serving and also of an appointed position with certain qualifications.**
- n Is deaconess used generally and for an office with qualifications?**
- n We find the term deaconess used of a woman (Phoebe) who was a deaconess of the church in Cenchrea (Rom 16:1), but we don't find it used of an office with a list of qualifications to follow.**

Does It Mean Deaconess?

- n If an office of deaconess was meant in 1Tim 3, I would expect to see:
 - likewise deaconesses should be...with a list of qualifications to follow.
 - This would instruct us about the position and the qualifications. The sentence in 1Tim 3:11 gives only qualifications for the women under consideration, nothing as to the position they would be appointed.
- n The only other reference to women in the chapter is to the women (wives) of the overseers and deacons.
- n That this verse (3:11) refers to their wives makes the most sense to me.

Likewise Their Wives Must Be...

- n *Reverent*
- n *Not slanderers*
- n *Temperate*
- n *Faithful in all things*

Reverent

- n **Reverent = human beings *worthy of respect/honor, noble, dignified, serious* (BDAG).**
 - **1 Tim 2:2** "*for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.*"
 - **Titus 2:2** "*But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.*"
 - **Titus 2:7** "*in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,*"

Not Slanderers

- n pertaining to engagement in slander, *slanderous*; *in our literature as title of the principal transcendent evil being the adversary/devil, (BDAG)*
- n They must not have fallen into the trap Paul writes for younger widows:
 - **1Timothy 5:11-15** "*At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; for some have already turned aside to follow Satan.*"

Temperate

- n Temperate ~ to being restrained in conduct, *self-controlled, level-headed* (BDAG)
- n Paul writes about his attempt to be self-controlled.
 - 1 Cor 9:24-27 *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."*

Faithful In All Things

- n Faithful = (1) pertaining to being worthy of belief or trust, *trustworthy, faithful, dependable, inspiring trust/faith*, (2) pertaining to being trusting, *trusting, cherishing faith/trust* (BDAG)
- n I think Titus 2:3-5 sums up all the qualities given for their wives quite well.
 - Titus 2:3-5 "*Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*"