



# **The Qualifications of Deacons**

**We will look at the qualities they must possess written in 1Tim 3:8-13**

# Likewise Deacons Must Be...

- *Reverent*
- *Not double-tongued*
- *Not given to much wine*
- *Not greedy for money*
- *Holding faith with pure conscience*
- *Blameless*
- *Husband of one wife*
- *Ruling his house well*

# Reverent

- **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 Double-Tongued

- Double-tongued = *insincere* [in the U.S.A. ‘double-tongued’ may convey a different meaning] (BDAG)
- primarily means “saying the same thing twice, or given to repetition” (*dis*, “twice,” *logos*, “a word, or speech”); hence, “saying a thing to one person and giving a different view of it to another, double-tongued,” (Vines)
- This word is only used in the NT here about deacons. It seems to address the truthfulness of these men when they speak, specifically being able to believe what they say.

# Not Given To Much Wine

- **Given** = to continue in close attention to something, *occupy oneself with, devote or apply oneself to* (BDAG)
- **Much** = pertaining to being relatively large in quantity or measure, *much, extensive* (BDAG)
- Even when Paul advised Timothy to drink wine and no longer drink water, he put the adjective of little with wine, he also said Timothy should do it because of his stomach and his frequent illnesses. So even when there may be a purpose to drink wine it was to be a relatively little amount, which is just the opposite of much.
- **1 Timothy 5:23** "*No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.* "

# Not Greedy For Money

- Greedy for Money = shamelessly greedy for money, *avaricious, fond of dishonest gain* (BDAG)
- This word is used for elders in Titus 1:7; 1Peter 5:2 as well as for deacons in 1Tim 3:8.
- As with the elders who could use their position to line their own pockets, deacons may have access to funds they could put in their own pockets, much like Judas did (Jn 12:6).
- The seven men who were put over the business of the daily distribution (Ac 6:1-6) could have siphoned some goods for their own wealth.

# Holding Faith With Pure Conscience

- **1 Timothy 3:16** *"By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory."*
- **1 Timothy 1:5** *"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. "*
- **1 Timothy 1:18-19** *"This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. "*

# Blameless or Above Reproach

- = *blameless, irreproachable* (BDAG)
- This is the same word given for Elders in Titus 1:6. As with elders it is used of their present condition before other people and God. It means there is nothing he has done wrong to anyone that is not already repented of and forgiven.
- 1 Corinthians 1:4, 8 "*I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ... who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"
- Colossians 1:22 "*yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—*"



# Husband of One Wife

■ Just like the elder a deacon must be a man married to one woman. They should be above reproach in this. They should be examples of the following passages:

■ **1 Peter 3:7** *"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."*

■ **Colossians 3:19** *"Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them."*

■ **Ephesians 5:25, 29** *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her," ... vs. 29 "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."*

# Rules His Own House Well

- **Rules = to exercise a position of leadership, rule, direct, be at the head (of),** (BDAG).
  - **Ephesians 6:4** "*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*"
  - **Colossians 3:21** "*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*"

# **What Qualities Given For Elders That Are Not Given For Deacons**

- Temperate -Self controlled
- Sober-minded
- Not Self willed
- A lover of what is good
- Just
- Holy
- Of good behavior
- Hospitable
- Able to teach-exhort & convict
- Not violent
- Gentle
- Not quarrelsome-quick tempered
- Not covetous
- Children in submission -faithful children
- Not a novice
- Has a good testimony from those outside