

“Scriptural Qualifications To Be A Deacon”

Tape: D-49 E. Rome

Time: 7/21/02 6 p.m.

Text: 1 Timothy 3: 8-13

Introduction:

A church should go by scriptural qualifications, when they are in need of setting some one aside to be a deacon. The Lord has strict guidelines to go by because of the importance of that office. No man is perfect, therefore you are not going to find any one perfect to fill this office. However, the church has got to go by God’s guideline as close as possible. This message can help the congregation to understand the qualifications for a deacon. I have heard people say, well I don’t see any thing wrong with this or that. We don’t go by how **we see things, or how we feel, but what God says.**

I. Paul Deals With The Restrictions

A. The Male Restriction

V.12a- *Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife,*

A woman can’t be a **husband**. This verse specifies that a deacon must be a man. I know there are a lot of denominations ordaining women deacons, but they are going against the scriptural qualifications.

B. The Marriage Restriction

V.12a- *Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife.*

Now, this does not mean one at a time, as some will suggest. It actually means a **one woman man**. A person who has been divorced does not qualify. Yes, God forgives all sins, even the sin of divorce. A forgiven divorced person can be used greatly by God, but this person is disqualified to be a deacon according to the scriptural qualification.

C. The Miscellaneous Restrictions

Paul gives various qualities to be considered.

1. The Various Qualities That Mustn't Be In His Life

▶ **V.8b**- 2nd phrase- not double-tongued

Double tongued- refers to bearing tales, gossiping, saying one thing to one person and another thing to another person.

Lev. 19:16- *Thou shall not go up and down as a talebearer among the people.*

▶ **V.8c**- *not given to much wine*

People did drink wine for medical reasons during that period of time.

People of our day have medicine available, so they can't use that as a excuse to drink.

Proverbs 23: 29-35- explains the problems that come from drinking.

Habakkuk 2: 15- *Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thy mayest look on their nakedness!*

Any potential deacon should not drink, but we can go father and say that any Christian should not drink.

Drinking will cause them to have a bad testimony, plus it will bring a reproach upon the church.

▶ **V.8d**-*not greedy of filthy lucre;*

This speaks of someone who is possessed with making money. **Gold** is their **God**, instead of the **true and living God**.

1 Timothy 6; 9-10- speaks of the danger of loving money.

V.10c-*which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith-*

Matthew 6: 21- *For where your heart is, there will your heart be also.*

2. The Various Qualities That Must Be In His Life

(1) He Must Be Faithful To The Holy Standards

>**V.8**- 2nd phrase- *Be grave-*

grave- other comparison words- serious, honorable, revered,

highly respected, noble.

The very opposite:

- Opposite of being flippant
- Opposite of dishonoring one's self
- Opposite of having surface religion only

>**V.9-** *holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience*

V.16- explains the mystery of the faith- ***And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:***

- *God was manifested [revealed in the flesh]*
- *Justified [vindicated] in the spirit*
- *Seen by angels*
- *Preached [proclaimed] unto the Gentiles*
- *Believed on in the world*
- *Received [taken] up into glory*

Amplified & Summarized- A deacon must believe in the incarnation, in the gospel that God came to earth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the love and salvation of God for man.

This verse says-that he must hold within his own heart the mystery of the faith. He must possess and cling to it in good conscience.

>**V.10-** Last phrase- *Being found blameless*

The scripture **doesn't say sinless, but blameless.**

He must live a life above reproach. He is to live a Christian life as close as he can, then there will not be any one pointing to his life with blame from what they have observed.

Family Requirement

V.12- 2nd phrase-*Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*

This speaks of being the head of the home. This does not mean that he is a dictator, tyrant, or bully at home. It means that he is the leader of the wife and children. He leads them

all. It means that the man is not bossed about or dominated by his wife; that he does not allow his children to disobey, rebel, or talk back to him or their mother.

Going back to the pastor- same requirement-V.4,5- *One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; V.5-* gives the purpose-*For If a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?*

He Must Be Faithful To The Holy Standards

(b) He Must Be Full Of The Holy Spirit

Acts 6: 3- *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom-*

The opposite of this would be a carnal Christian. One that is dominated by the flesh. The person that is full of the **Holy Spirit** will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in making decisions.

Paul Deals With The Restrictions

II. Paul Deals With The Requirements

A. The Maturing Requirement Of His Conduct

V.10a- *And let these also first be proven;*

>You don't give a person the position, if they are not proven before hand. You don't say, well if we put this person on as a deacon, then they will start living up to their qualification.

>**No, they are to be proven before hand.** If they don't live by the qualifications pertaining to their life before they are ordained, they will not live out the kind of life that they are suppose to after they are ordained.

> **They are to be proven first!**

B. The Mutual Requirement Of His Companion

Now Paul moves to the wife's qualifications.

11a-*Even so must their wives be-*

The words “**Even So**”-reveals that the wife needs to be qualified.

11a- *even so must their wives be:*

- * **grave**- serious- minded, honorable, respected-
- * **not slanderous**- a talebearer, gossip, a person who goes about talking about other, stirring up mischief and disturbance.
- * **sober**- has to do with being sober minded, not drunk. It speaks of spiritual alertness.
- * **faithful in all things**-

One writer put it this way.

Completely trustworthy as a wife and mother and as a Believer. She must be faithful to the Lord.

- * in her personal devotion & loyalty to God
- * in her commitment to the church & it’s services and ministry.
- * in her ministry in serving with her husband

Paul Deals With The Restrictions
Paul Deals With The Requirements

III. Paul Deals With The Responsibility

V.10b- 2nd phrase- *then let them use the office of a deacon,*

V.13a- 1st phrase- *For they that have used the office of a deacon-*

The word “**USE**” according to Webster means- (1) to put or bring into action or service; employ for or apply to given purpose.(2) to practice or exercise;

The word “**Deacon**” means servant. A deacon is to serve. Let’s go back to the first mention of a deacon, and the reason the deacons were to be used in the church.

First Mentioned Acts 6: 1-7- read

He is to assist the pastor in serving!

Responsibility goes with the position of being a deacon.

IV. Paul Deals With The Respect

V.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.*

A. The Mention Of Respect

1. Respect Is Established

V.13- *for they that have used the office of a deacon well, purchase [acquire] to themselves a good degree.*

Amplified: It is to gain a position of trust and influence. The person who is faithful in his position of deacon will have a good standing before the community, the church and Christ. He will hear the Lord say-“well done thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of the Lord.”

3. Respect Is Earned

Paul points out that the respect that he is to get as a deacon has to be earned from *using his office well.*

Listen again- *For they that have used the office of a deacon well-* If a deacon doesn't use his office well, they can't expect respect.

B. The Motivation From Respect

V.13- Last phrase- *and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Instead of swelling up with pride and letting it go to his head, he becomes **bold in the faith which is in Christ.**

The respect from using his office well gives him confidence to be bolder for Christ in his witnessing.

Conclusion:

We have been talking about:

Scriptural Qualifications To Be A Deacon

- I.** Paul Deals With The Restrictions
- II.** Paul Deals With The Requirements
- III.** Paul Deals With The Responsibilities
- IV.** Paul Deals With The Respect.....that is earned

