

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A DEACON

1 Timothy 3:8-13

⁸ Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹ but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. ¹¹ Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

¹² Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Qualifications of Deacons listed:

- A. Must be men of dignity (1 Tim. 3:8)
- B. Not double-tongued (1 Tim. 3:8)
- C. Not addicted to much wine (1 Tim. 3:8)
- D. Not fond of sordid gain (1 Tim. 3:8)
- E. Holding to the mystery of faith (1 Tim. 3:9)
- F. Has a clear conscience (1 Tim. 3:9)
- G. First be tested (1 Tim. 3:10)
- H. Beyond reproach (1 Tim. 3:10; Titus 2:8)
- I. Husband of only one wife (1 Tim. 3:12)
- J. Good manager of his children (1 Tim. 3:12)
- K. Good manager of his household(1 Tim. 3:12)

The meaning of the word *Deacon*

The word *deacon* comes from the Greek word diakonos. This word occurs a number of times in the Scriptures, but only four times to describe what we call deacons in the church today. Diakonos means servant, minister, waiter, or attendant. When used in an official way it describes what we call deacons of the church. In Acts chapter six, the apostles instructed the congregation to select seven men who were to be appointed to the task of daily serving the needs of the congregation. They waited upon the people. They served the widows. They rendered *active service* toward solving a problem. This is the meaning of the term diakonos.