

DEACON REQUIREMENTS

Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Deacons and Pastors are not church bosses...they are to be spiritual leaders and servants of God's people.
- b. The Bible gives a very precise description...of the kind of man the church should chose to serve as a Deacon. (FAITH, CONDUCT, FAMILY)

II. THE DEACON AND HIS FAITH-

- a. #1, A Deacon is to be a saved man... Do they profess to be saved? ...Do they consistently live a clean and holy life? ...Do they demonstrate that the Lord, the faith and the church are a major part of their life? ...Do they love the church and their fellow Christians?
- b. #2, A Deacon is to be a Spirit-filled man...a man who is consistently controlled and led by the Holy Spirit and not by the flesh...a man who consistently displays the "fruit of the Spirit" in his life... *Galatians 5:22-23 "...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*
- c. #3, A Deacon is to be a man who loves the Scriptures...who reads and studies his Bible...who is growing in his understanding of the Bible...who orders his life by the truths of the Bible...who knows how to apply the truths of the Bible to the work of the church and to everyday life...who is able to teach the doctrines of the Bible to others and to defend the faith when it is attacked...a man whose opinions and decisions are based on the truth of the Word of God.
- d. #4, A Deacon is to be a man who is unafraid and unashamed to witness and share his faith with others...as two of the first Deacons...Stephen and Phillip...were bold witnesses for Christ...so every Deacon should be unafraid and unashamed to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- e. #5, A Deacon is to be a man who is serious about spiritual matters and serving God...one who would take the responsibility of serving the church as a Deacon ... as a serious spiritual responsibility and a service to God.
- f. #6, A Deacon is to be a spiritually mature man...not to be a recent convert but one who has had time to grow in the Lord...one who has had time to prove himself morally and spiritually...one who has proven over the test of time and the experiences of life that his faith and commitment to Christ is real...and a deacon should first prove himself faithful in serving the Lord in other areas of service and responsibility...before he is chosen to be a Deacon.

III. A DEACON AND HIS CONDUCT- (FAITH, CONDUCT, FAMILY)

- a. #1, A Deacon is to be a man who has a good reputation in the church and in the community...one who is respected ... trustworthy ... dependable ... honest ... a man of integrity...who is above reproach...morally blameless (no glaring moral fault) ... a man who lives for Jesus at home...on the job...in the community...and in the church.
- b. #2, A Deacon is to be a man who is honest and godly in his speech...a man who is in control of his tongue...a Deacon is not to be “double-tongued.”
- c. #3, A Deacon’s life must be free of any action or habit that dishonors the Lord ...that is harmful to him physically and spiritually...and ruins his Christian witness and testimony.
- d. #4, A Deacon is not to be greedy... he should have a godly and scriptural attitude toward money...he should earn and manage his money in honest and godly ways ...he should honor God as the source of his wealth and possessions...he should be a tither and a giver.

IV. THE DEACON AND HIS FAMILY- (FAITH, CONDUCT, FAMILY)

- a. Deacons are to serve as an example to the church and the community...therefore, as a Deacon is to be above reproach in his spiritual life...he is also to be above reproach in his married life...and in his home life as well.
- b. The Bible says that the home is the proving ground for spiritual leadership...if a man fails to manage his home...his marriage, his children, his wealth, his possessions, his relationships...in a way that honors and glorifies God...he is not qualified to be a Deacon.
- c. A man does not have to be married to be a Deacon...as long as a man meets the other requirements of being a Deacon...and his life is free of immoral and ungodly behavior...being single...a widower ... or the innocent victim of a divorce...does not eliminate a man from being a Deacon.
- d. However, if a married man is to serve as a Deacon...the Lord expects him to meet certain standards in his home life.
- e. #1, A Deacon who is married is to be the husband of one wife...literally a Deacon is to be a "*one woman man*"...he is to be a good and faithful husband who loves his wife...the man who is a womanizer, adulterer, flirt, abuser or one who has abandoned his wife is not qualified to serve the church as a Deacon.
- f. #2, If a married man is going to be a Deacon...his wife must be a believer as well...the man who is married to an unbeliever in Christ is not qualified to be a Deacon.
- g. The Bible teaches that a Deacon's wife is to love and respect her husband...she is to be faithful to him...she is to be a good Christian mother to her children...she is to be trustworthy... honorable...worthy of respect...in control of her tongue...not a gossip or slanderer...serious about her walk with the Lord ... serious about serving the Lord...and active in the church.

- h. #3, A Deacon who has children is to be a loving and caring father...who is in control of his children and raising them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

V. CONCLUSION- (FAITH, CONDUCT, FAMILY)

- a. The qualifications for Deacons are high...but these are qualifications that God expects from every Christian man...whether a man is ever chosen to be a Deacon or not these are the qualifications God expects of us.
- b. Those who come closest to consistently meeting these qualifications...are to be chosen to serve the church as Deacons.
- c. The office of the Deacon is vitally important...a Deacon can either build up or tear down the reputation of the church ... by how he lives and how he carries out his duties as a Deacon...a church is to be prayerful and careful about the men it chooses to serve as Deacons.
- d. Whether you are ever chosen to be a Deacon or not...every man should ask God today to help them live the kind of life that is described in these verses.
- e. Salvation...join the church...be baptized...Christian service...prayer for yourself or others.