

# A Biblical Theology of Deacons

---

## VI: Deacon Qualifications

MEFC Nov 7 & 14, 2021

1 Timothy 3:8-13 “Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

### Dignified

- Worthy of respect
- Deacons & the *gunē* (3:11; see also Titus 2:2; Php 4:8)
- Biblical examples:
- Application:
- Exhortation to us all: 1 Peter \_\_\_\_\_

### Not double tongued

- Two-faced; hypocritical
- Application:
- Exhortation to us all: Ephesians \_\_\_\_\_ James \_\_\_\_\_

### Not addicted to much wine

- Devoted (taking care and giving attention) to someone or something
- Examples:
- Application:
- Exhortation to us all: Luke \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Peter \_\_\_\_\_

### Not greedy for dishonest gain

- where shameful dishonesty meets gain (see also Titus 1:7, 11; 1 Pet 5:2; 2 Cor 4:2; 2 Tim 2:15; see also parable of the talents in Mt 25; or Mt 16:26)
- Examples: 1 Samuel 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Luke \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul in 1 Timothy \_\_\_\_\_ Acts \_\_\_\_\_ Php \_\_\_\_\_
- Application:
- Exhortation to us all: Matthew \_\_\_\_\_ Philippians \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### Holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience

- “the mystery of the faith” = \_\_\_\_\_
- “holding” = \_\_\_\_\_
- “with a clear conscience” = \_\_\_\_\_
- Examples: Titus \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Timothy \_\_\_\_\_ Acts \_\_\_\_\_
- Application:
- Exhortation to us all: Matthew \_\_\_\_\_

### And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

- Serving is *conditional* upon examination (see also 1 Cor 3:13; 11:28; 2 Cor 8:8; 13:5; Gal 6:4; 1 Pet 1:7)
- What should be tested?  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- To be blameless (see also Col 1:22; 1 Cor 1:8; Titus 1:6, 7; 1 Tim 3:2)
- Examples:
- Application:

**Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.**

- “One-woman-man”
  - Clearly not \_\_\_\_\_
  - Options:
    1. No polygamy
    2. No widows or remarried widows (only married once)
    3. No divorce or remarried divorcé (only married once)
    4. Not a bachelor/single (must be married)
    5. Faithful
- Managing well: children
  - Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-11
- Managing well: household
- Application:
- Exhortation to us all: