

I Timothy 3:8-13

Commentary: Qualification for Deacons 3:8-13

In verses 1-7 Paul outlined the qualifications for Elders within the church. Paul now continues his instructions concerning order in the life of the local church, by setting forth qualifications for the Deacons. The word deacon is translated from the Greek word "*diakonos*" which means "one who renders service to others," therefore Deacons are the recognised official servants of the local church. In this passage Paul does not spell out the specific functions of Deacons, but simply clarifies the type of person who qualifies to be a Deacon.

Instructions:

Carefully read through I Timothy 3:8-13 and then attempt to answer the questions which follow:

Although the office of Deacon is not specifically mentioned in Acts 6:1-6, we see the first glimpse of a group of men acting in the capacity of Deacons.

- 1) Read Acts 6:1-6 and list the qualities the Apostles sought in these men?
- 2) What was the function of a Deacon in the early church of Jerusalem.
- 3) How does this differ from what the responsibilities of the Apostles?

In I Timothy 3:8-13 Paul lists the qualification necessary for the office of Deacon.

- 4) What are 5 positive qualities a Deacon must possess (v8-10 and v12)?
- 5) What 3 negative qualities must a Deacon avoid (v8)?

There are several different interpretations given by Bible scholars regarding who v11 refers to. Some believe it is speaking of the wives of the Deacon's, while others say it refers to Deaconesses (female Deacons). The most probable translation of the Greek word "*γυνή*" (*guné*) in the context of this passage is "women", referring to the office of Deacon held by a woman.

- 6) Can you list any women in the NT that served in the capacity of a Deacon?

Check your answers against the women mentioned in the following bible passages:

Romans 16:1, Romans 16:6, Acts 9:36, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 18:24-26, Acts 21:8-9

There are 4 expectations placed on **female** Deacons, 3 positive and 1 negative.

8) What are they (v11)?

9) True or False. Is there a parallel between the first 4 qualities of a male Deacon (v8-10) and the 4 qualities of a female Deacon (v11)?

10) Why **can't** the 2 qualities outlined in v12 apply to female Deacons?

11) What is promised to Deacons that serve well (v13)?