

The Qualifications of a Deacon

Ref.	NSAB	KJV	NLT	Interpretation/Description
3:8	Men of dignity	Grave	Well respected	A man that demonstrates a serious manner that is worthy of respect.
3:8	Not doubled-tongued	Not doubled-tongued	Have integrity	Literally “not saying the same thing twice”. Deacons are not to say one thing but mean another or make different representations to different people about the same thing. These men should be honest and sincere in the things they say.
3:8	Not addicted to much wine	Not given to much wine	Not be heavy drinkers	Literally “not attached to” wine. Deacons should not be yielded and engaged in habitual consumption of alcohol. He should be filled with the Spirit rather than filled with wine.
3:8	Fond of sordid gain	Not greedy of filthy lucre	Dishonest with money	Literally “disgraceful gain”. Deacons should not be eager for dishonest gain, this can refer to both money and position. What makes the gain disgraceful is not acquiring it but rather how they acquired it. The Deacon should seek and trust God for provision rather than seek it from dishonest sources.
3:9	Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience	Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience	Committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience	Describes a man of conviction who behaves in harmony with his beliefs. Deacons should be dedicated to live in accordance with the body of doctrine that God has given by special revelation (the Bible). This is only achievable if he endeavours to continuously live with a clear conscience.
3:10	Beyond Reproach	Blameless	Pass the test	A judicial term meaning “unaccused”. The Deacon should not have reason to be accused in a court of Law.

3:12	Husband of one wife	Husband of one wife	Must be faithful to his wife	Literally a “one woman man”. A man need not be married to qualify for the office of Deacon but if he is married must only have one living wife at a time. This qualification excludes a man who is divorced (if his wife is still alive) or divorced and remarried while his first wife lives.
3:12	Good managers of their own households	Ruling their children and their own houses well	Manage his children and household well	The Deacon must minister over his household well. A man must demonstrate good administration of their own household before they can expect to be good administrator of God’s household. This is an issue of headship and therefore a woman cannot fulfil this qualification.

The Qualifications of a Deaconess

Ref.	NSAB	KJV	NLT	Interpretation/Description
3:11	Dignified	Grave	Be respected	A woman that demonstrates a serious manner that is worthy of respect.
3:11	Not malicious gossips	Slanderers	Not slander others	The Greek word here is “diabolos” (slanderers) an adjective used to describe Satan as the greatest of false accusers. Deaconesses must not be women that readily find fault with the demeanour and conduct of others, make false accusations about others and spread innuendos and criticism in the church. Rather she should use her mouth for the edification of the church.
3:11	Temperate	Sober	Exercise self-control	Self controlled in regard to opinions and passions. She should be characterised as a calm, well-balanced, peaceable woman that does not readily surrender to her fleshly desires.
3:11	Faithful in all things	Faithful in all things	Be faithful in everything they do	She is to be characterised as a trustworthy woman. This faithfulness is to be in all areas of her life including; marriage, money, relationships, church, etc.