

The Ministry of Deacons

1 Timothy 3:8-13
March 19, 2017

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. - **1 Timothy 3:13**

I. THE MINISTRY OF ELDERS/OVERSEERS

- Elders lead out in teaching, prayer, shepherding and protecting the doctrines of the faith (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- Elders are to be mature believers, honorable, faithful to the gospel, wise, and well-respected. They are also to be honored (1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:5; Heb. 13:17).
- The role of the elder comes with higher expectations (1 Tim. 5:19-21; Heb. 13:17; James 3:1).

II. THE MINISTRY OF DEACONS

- If Acts 6:1-6 describe the initial ministry of deacons, it appears they serve...
 1. As “shock absorbers”.
 2. Broadly so the elders can serve specifically.
 3. In ways that assist the administration of the church (Rom. 16:1).

III. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS

1. Dignified (v. 8)
2. Not double-tongued (v. 8)
3. Not addicted to much wine (v. 8)
4. Not greedy for dishonest gain (v. 8)
5. Sound in faith and life (v. 9)
6. Blameless (v. 10)
7. Godly home; godly wife (v. 11, 12)
8. A one-woman man (vs. 12)

Take-Away: There are specific qualifications to serve in church leadership. We should all aspire to meet these qualifications for the glory of Christ and his church.

KNOW: The office of deacon clearly existed in the early church and is needed here in the ministry of LifePoint as well. We have been given clear instructions on how to pick those leaders.

DO: Pray over the incoming deacon ministry.

Recommended Reading:

The Fight: A Practical Handbook for Christian Living,

by John White (LifePoint Library call #248 WHI)

Minister of Mercy: The New Testament Deacon, by Alexander Strauch

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. What are the differences between elders and deacons?
2. What type of people, generally speaking, should deacons be?
3. Do you see a need for a good deacon ministry at LifePoint?
4. As you read the qualifications for deacons, do you have the desire to attain (or maintain) these qualities in your own life? Talk about that.
5. Should women serve as deacons? Share your thoughts, if you have an opinion, on this controversial topic. (Remember: speak the truth as you see it in love.)
6. What did you learn from this stand alone message? Are there any practical application points for your life?