

Deacons ~ A Life of Service
1 Timothy 3:8-13



A Life of Service

- **Mark 10:45** - For even the Son of Man came **not to be served but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- **John 12:26** - **If anyone serves me**, he must follow me; **and where I am, there will my servant be also**. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.
- **Philippians 2:4** - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but **also to the interests of others**.
- **1 Peter 4:10** - As each has received a gift, **use it to serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace

JESUS FIRST

Others next

Yourself last

Biblical Definition of a Deacon

- Original Greek Text
- Diakonos – a servant, minister
- Translation to English:
 - Official Church Leadership Position – Deacon (Male Only)
 - Regular Servant of the Church – Servant (Male or Female)

Proper Translation Matters

- **Romans 16:1** - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **servant** of the church at Cenchreae,
- **1 Timothy 3:8** - **Deacons** likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.
- **1 Timothy 3:12(a)** - Let **deacons** each be the husband of one wife
 - **Scriptures do not contradict each other or cause confusion**
 - **The Office of Deacon is a Male only position in the church**

Consequences of Improper Translation

Romans 16:1

- **Correct Translation in Context**
 - English Standard Version
 - King James Version
 - New King James Version
 - New American Standard
 - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **servant**
- **Incorrect Translation out of context**
 - New International Version
 - International Standard Version
 - New Living Translation
 - Revised Standard Version
 - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **deacon/deaconess**

Selection and Appointment of Deacons

- **Acts 6:1-6** - Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ **Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty.** ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Proch'orus, and Nica'nor, and Timon, and Par'menas, and Nicola'us, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them.



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Scriptural Process of Selection of Deacons

1. Need for Deacons in the Church
 2. Congregation submits/selects names of men given to the elders
 3. Elders appoint the Deacons to their office/ministry
- **Acts 6:3** - Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

Qualifications for Deacons

Character of a Deacon

- **1 Timothy 3:8** - Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.

Scriptural Knowledge

- **1 Timothy 3:9** - They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

Experience Matters

- **1 Timothy 3:10** - And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

Deacons – Husband and Wife Ministry

- **1 Timothy 3:11-12** - Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.

Good Standing and Confidence

- **1 Timothy 3:13** - 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.

A Life of Service to Jesus

- **Galatians 1:10** - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.