

I. Why aspire to be a deacon? – The \_\_\_\_\_ of the ministry

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ – **1 Timothy 3:8a** – *Likewise...* – In the same way – As one desiring the office of an overseer aspires for a good work (**1 Timothy 3:1**) so the ones aspiring to be deacons desire a good work

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ – **1 Timothy 3:8a** – “deacons” – The Greek word is “diakonos” – It meant “one who waits on tables” (**Luke 22:27**). This was the role of the first deacons who freed up the leaders of the church to give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word (**Acts 6:2-4**).

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a deacon – Whatever needs to be done to free up the overseers to shepherd the flock – The charitable work regarding widows most still be a focus – See **1 Timothy 5** for the taking care of widows and note also **James 1:27**.

II. Who can be a deacon? – The \_\_\_\_\_ of the ministry

A. One who has consistency in their personal life

1. For the men

a. They must be reverent - – **1 Timothy 3:8b**...*must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.*

– Honorable, worthy of respect (Greek “semnos” – Mandated for older men – **Titus 2:2**)

- Not be double-tongued – Insincere, two-faced (Greek “dilogos”)

- Not given to much wine – Lit. “not devoting himself to much wine”

- Not greedy for money – shamefully greedy

- Not addicted to money See **Titus 1:7**

b. They must be sincere – **1 Timothy 3:9**...*“They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience”*. See **1 Timothy 1:5 & 1:19**

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

1) Prove by testing, examine, try out (Greek “dokimazo”)

2) Then let them serve as deacon – One word (“diakoneo”) – serve/ minister continually

3) Blameless (Greek “anegkletos”) free from accusation -**Titus 1:6-7**

2. For the women – **1 Timothy 3:12** - *Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.*

**Romans 16:1**- *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae,*

a. Likewise – In the same way as the men

b. Their wives – Lit. “women” – Probably a reference to deaconesses

c. Must be reverent – Same as above – “worthy of respect”

d. Must not be not slanders – Lit. – “She devils” – those who accuse others (Greek “diabolos” – see **Titus 2:3**)

e. Must be soberminded – restrained (Greek- “nephaleos”)

See **1 Timothy 3:2 & Titus 2:2**

f. Must be faithful in all things. – Faithful, trustworthy in everything

B. One who has consistency in their family life -**1 Timothy 3:13** - *Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.*

1. One women men - Same as **1 Timothy 3:2**

2. Caring for and directing (Grk. “proistemi”) children and their own homes

3. Well or Good – See **1 Timothy 3:4**.

III. What rewards are the deacons? - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the ministry **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. The Prerequisite – “*For those who have served well as deacons*”

1. For – this why they must qualify by handling their home well

2. Greek – “diakoneo kalos” – the one serving well

B. The Promise

1. Lit. “acquire for themselves a good rank”. – Before man – the least is the greatest, the servant is the leader.

2. Lit “acquire for themselves much boldness/confidence” – Before God – See **1 John 2:28**

3. Location of this position - In the sphere of the Christian faith – Contrast - **Hebrews 13:17** and **James 3:2**

## Purpose Statement

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Church – **1 Timothy 3:14-15a** - *I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, <sup>15</sup> if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave....*

1. Paul's plan – I hope to come shortly/quickly (To Ephesus)
2. Paul's provision – How it is divinely (Greek "dei") necessary to behave (Greek "anastrophō") – means our way of everyday life

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Church – **1 Timothy 3:15b** - *..... in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

1. House of God – family of God – **Ephesians 2:18** – We are family
2. Church of the living God – **2 Corinthians 6:16** – He lives here
3. Pillar and ground of the truth – Column (Greek "sulōs") and stay or support (Greek "hedraïoma") regarding truth – The church is that which is the girding up and supporting the truth.

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Church – **1 Timothy 3:16** - *Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.*

- Without controversy – Confessedly (Greek "homologoumenos")
- Mystery – previously hidden now revealed in Jesus – Jesus reveals how godliness is achieved.

### Early Church Creed

1. His incarnation – He was manifested in the flesh (Greek "phaneo"- to cause to be seen) – **1 John 1:2**
2. His resurrection – Justified in the Spirit – **Romans 1:4**
3. His observation – Seen by angels – **Luke 2:14**
4. His proclamation – Preached among the nations (Greek "ethne") – **Matthew 4:15-16**
5. His ascension – Taken up in glory – **Acts 1:9-11**



# LET THE CHURCH BE The Church:

THE CHURCH'S  
LEADERSHIP & STRUCTURE- PART 2



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