

February 11, 2012

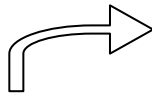
D4: the qualifications (deacons)

1. The greater context in which deacons sit.

- The entire body of Christ is _____ the gospel mission of Christ.

2. Deacons – the importance of tested and approved character, 1 Tm 3:8-12.

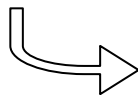
- The _____ and _____ character “sandwich” of 3:10.



“These men must also first be tested”

“let them serve as deacons”

“if they are above reproach”



*“Those chosen should not be unknown.
Their integrity should be ascertained by all. . .
This means this choice is not to fall at random,
and without selection, on any that come to hand or mind;
but those men are to be chosen who are approved
by their past life in such a manner that,
after what may be called full inquiry,
they are ascertained to be well qualified.”*
John Calvin (electronic ed.)

Dignity, 3:8.

A serious _____ in life because of a serious mind and character.

Q: Do you see this qualification shaping your conversations? Prayers? Thoughts? Attitudes?

Not double-tongued, 3:8.

As notes are compared on the man's words, _____ do not become apparent.

Q: Does the content of your speech, or your portrayal of what happened change as your audience changes?

Not addicted to much wine, 3:8.

A repeated, habitual turning of thought to or use of _____.

Q: When was the last time you evaluated your use of alcohol? Is it time to re-evaluate?

Not fond of sordid gain, 3:8.

Loving the gain of wealth in such a way that causes my _____ to be questioned.

Q: How much attention are you giving to your spending habits in the "little things?" Why is it important to start here with the little things?

Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, 3:9.

An ever-present grasp on what is believed which causes the conscience to _____, not condemn the man or his ministry.

Q: What role does the word of God play in your life? Do you have a clear conscience about the way you approach God's word? The motive you have in coming to God's word? The frequency with which you come to God's word? The level of doing that accompanies your hearing of God's word?

Husband of one wife, 3:12.

A _____-woman man.

Q: How is the fight going to reign in your thoughts that attempt to wander off toward other women?

Good manager of their children and own households, 3:12.

Provides direct and ongoing _____ of children and household affairs.

Q: How connected are you to the guidance over your children and the affairs of your house?

3. Deacons' wives, 1 Tm 3:11.

2 options in 3:11.

GBC's position? 'Wives of deacons'. 6 reasons:

1. Paul does not use a third, specific, leadership title or office position in 3:11 like he did with both "overseer/elder" (3:2) and "deacon" (3:8, 12).
2. The placement of 3:11, sandwiched in the middle of the deacon qualifications (3:8-10, 12-13) seems logically disjoint if Paul is introducing a new office.
3. Historically, we do not find conclusive evidence for women deacons (or "deaconesses") during the NT times (Strauch, 119).
4. The majority of English translations go with "wives" rather than "women" or "deaconesses" (KJV, NIV, ESV, The New English Bible, The New Translation, The Good News Bible). NASBU95 is one of the only translations which translates "women" (which some believe allows for the meaning of "deaconesses").
5. "Wives of deacons" avoids any potential conflict with Paul's earlier teaching on women not being out in a position of authority over men in the church (1 Timothy 2:12), since they would be under the ministry of their husbands.

6. The early church in Acts 6 decided to go with all men servants (prototype deacons) when it would have been easy to assign women to the care of widows.

Be dignified, 3:11. See same qualification for deacons above in 3:8.

Not malicious gossips, 3:11.

_____ accusations are not thrown at others.

Q: Why is this character quality addressed to the women?

Temperate, 3:11.

Avoiding whatever might cloud and prevent _____ thinking.

Q: Can you imagine how potentially flammable situations (like the one in Acts 6 with the widows) demand that even the wives of the deacons be “temperate-minded?”

Faithful in all things, 3:11.

_____ in all matters entrusted to her, whether great or small.

Q: Do you see the benefit of a deacon’s wife being viewed trustworthy by those her husband is serving as a deacon?

4. Deacons – the blessed results of faithfulness, 1 Tm 3:13.

Deacons: highly respected, _____ servants in the mission, 1 Tm 3:13.

*“Those who serve God well and see His power and grace operative in their lives
will be emboldened for even greater service.”*

John MacArthur, 131