

## (D4: The Qualifications)

### Deacons, 1 Timothy 3:8-13

#### I. A Man of Dignity, 1 Timothy 3:8

*"These men must also first be tested;  
then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."*

1 Timothy 3:10

#### Prayerful Preparation

Lord, I desire Your work in my life in such a way that I will be proven faithful and above reproach as I fulfill Your mission through my church.

So that my church might increasingly glorify You in its mission, grant me courage and humility to position my life and ministry so that my elders may better know me, my character, and my giftedness.

Help my elders to be full of Your grace, truth and wisdom as they measure Your work in my life so they might best determine the ministry You desire me to serve in this body.

Today, heavenly Father, work in my life to increasingly make me into **a man of dignity**.

As **a man of dignity**, this means that I possess a serious bearing in life because of a serious mind and character. . . Help this serious bearing to increase inwardly in my thought life so that it may greatly influence my outward character as well. . . Make me Spirit-filled in this dignity that You want me to possess so that it might be appealing and winsome to others, because then they might be drawn into greater service for You. God, remove from me any silliness or flippant attitudes that do not make You more visible in Me as the weighty God that You are. May no one ever be tempted to think lightly of You, my God, because I portray myself as shallow or because I make light of serious matters. Lord, please keep me from a kind of dignity that is empty of joy, laughter or that has a coldness of heart or mind. Today, shape my thoughts, conversations, attitudes and overall character toward a more honorable, dignified, serious bearing.

*"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves  
a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*

1 Timothy 3:13

By Your grace and power, enable me to serve You and Your people well. If any high standing may come my way because You are making me into **a man of dignity** in my service, may You be praised by all and above all. And please increase my confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I may be emboldened in my service for Your gospel's sake.

## II. Not Double-Tongued, 1 Timothy 3:8

*"These men must also first be tested;  
then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."*  
1 Timothy 3:10

### Prayerful Preparation

Lord, I desire Your work in my life in such a way that I will be proven faithful and above reproach as I fulfill Your mission through my church.

So that my church might increasingly glorify You in its mission, grant me courage and humility to position my life and ministry so that my elders may better know me, my character, and my giftedness.

Help my elders to be full of Your grace, truth and wisdom as they measure Your work in my life so they might best determine the ministry You desire me to serve in this body.

Today, heavenly Father, work in my life so that I might not be **'double-tongued'**.

**'Not being double-tongued'**, means that I do not have 'two tongues'. To be this kind of man God, I need to be intimately aware of Your presence in every conversation. Please, enable me to remember You are my primary audience and hearer of every word I say to anyone else. For then and only then will my speech have integrity and will I become more trustworthy. Heavenly Father, if upon examination of my conversations today discrepancies arise because I made different representations to different people, I will confess those to You and seek Your and others' forgiveness as is needed. Again, God help my representations of events to remain the same even though my human audience changes. Since I am in a position where I have leadership over me and servants under me, help me to not speak one thing in one way to one group and something different to the other.

*"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves  
a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*  
1 Timothy 3:13

By Your grace and power, enable me to serve You and Your people well. If any high standing may come my way because You are increasingly helping me to **'not be double-tongued'** in my service, may You be praised by all and above all. And please increase my confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I may be emboldened in my service for Your gospel's sake.

### III. Not Addicted to Wine 1 Timothy 3:8

*"These men must also first be tested;  
then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."*  
1 Timothy 3:10

#### **Prayerful Preparation**

Lord, I desire Your work in my life in such a way that I will be proven faithful and above reproach as I fulfill Your mission through my church.

So that my church might increasingly glorify You in its mission, grant me courage and humility to position my life and ministry so that my elders may better know me, my character, and my giftedness.

Help my elders to be full of Your grace, truth and wisdom as they measure Your work in my life so they might best determine the ministry You desire me to serve in this body.

Today, heavenly Father, work in my life so that I might '**not be addicted to wine**'.

**Not being addicted to wine**, means that my thoughts and habits must not repeatedly turn to alcohol or anything in a sinful way that adversely affects my thought life and judgment. Lord, enable me to see if I in any way have become preoccupied with any drink, food or medicine in such a way that diminishes Your greatness and glory in my life. My desire is for my thought life and my behavior to always reveal to all that You are my greatest pleasure and treasure. Grant me the wisdom and strength to use all drink, medicine, and food in such a way so that they reveal You to be the all-satisfying treasure that You are!

*"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves  
a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*  
1 Timothy 3:13

By Your grace and power, enable me to serve You and Your people well. If any high standing may come my way because You are increasingly helping me to '**not be addicted to wine**' in my service, may You be praised by all and above all. And please increase my confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I may be emboldened in my service for Your gospel's sake.

#### **IV. Not Fond of Sordid Gain, 1 Timothy 3:8**

*"These men must also first be tested;  
then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."  
1 Timothy 3:10*

##### **Prayerful Preparation**

Lord, I desire Your work in my life in such a way that I will be proven faithful and above reproach as I fulfill Your mission through my church.

So that my church might increasingly glorify You in its mission, grant me courage and humility to position my life and ministry so that my elders may better know me, my character, and my giftedness.

Help my elders to be full of Your grace, truth and wisdom as they measure Your work in my life so they might best determine the ministry You desire me to serve in this body.

Today, heavenly Father, work in my life so that I might **not be fond of sordid gain**.

**Not being fond of sordid gain** means that I do not love gaining wealth in such a way that causes my character to be questioned. Lord, help me to never approach my service in Your church in such a way that might tempt me to use my position as an opportunity to personally profit financially. Help me to take a serious look at my overall use of money. Open my eyes to see what You see about my financial habits in the 'little things'. Help me to be faithful in the little things so that I can increasingly become more trustworthy as a steward of all that You have given me. Help me to look at all Your resources in ministry (people, things, money) in such a way that will help me be a good steward of them in the ministry for Your sake and honor.

*"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves  
a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."  
1 Timothy 3:13*

By Your grace and power, enable me to serve You and Your people well. If any high standing may come my way because You are increasingly helping me to **not be fond of sordid gain** in my service, may You be praised by all and above all. And please increase my confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I may be emboldened in my service for Your gospel's sake.

## **V. Holding to the Mystery of the Faith with a Clear Conscience, 1 Timothy 3:9**

*"These men must also first be tested;  
then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."*  
1 Timothy 3:10

### **Prayerful Preparation**

Lord, I desire Your work in my life in such a way that I will be proven faithful and above reproach as I fulfill Your mission through my church.

So that my church might increasingly glorify You in its mission, grant me courage and humility to position my life and ministry so that my elders may better know me, my character, and my giftedness.

Help my elders to be full of Your grace, truth and wisdom as they measure Your work in my life so they might best determine the ministry You desire me to serve in this body.

Today, heavenly Father, work in my life so that I might **'hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience'**.

**'Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience'** means that first and foremost have a strong allegiance and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ personally. Today Lord, increase my grasp of and on the gospel. As my life more consistently becomes aligned with the gospel of Jesus Christ, Your gift to me – my conscience – will not condemn me, but rather will affirm that I indeed am living by Your word and will. Lord, may my desire for Your word become like Jesus' desire (who said that He did not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from Your mouth). Purify my motive and reason for coming to Your word. May Your word increasingly become for me the primary means to knowing and loving You, the most glorious and all-satisfying end of all.

*"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves  
a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*  
1 Timothy 3:13

By Your grace and power, enable me to serve You and Your people well. If any high standing may come my way because You are increasingly helping me to **'hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience'** in my service, may You be praised by all and above all. And please increase my confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I may be emboldened in my service for Your gospel's sake.

## **VI. A Husband of One Wife, 1 Timothy 3:12**

*"These men must also first be tested;  
then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."  
1 Timothy 3:10*

### **Prayerful Preparation**

Lord, I desire Your work in my life in such a way that I will be proven faithful and above reproach as I fulfill Your mission through my church.

So that my church might increasingly glorify You in its mission, grant me courage and humility to position my life and ministry so that my elders may better know me, my character, and my giftedness.

Help my elders to be full of Your grace, truth and wisdom as they measure Your work in my life so they might best determine the ministry You desire me to serve in this body.

Today, heavenly Father, work in my life to increasingly make me into a **'husband of one wife'**.

As a **'husband of one wife'** this means that I am completely satisfied to love only one woman in this life – my wife. Restrain my romantic, sexual, and emotional thoughts and desires to be exclusively for my wife. Grant me wisdom daily to shepherd my wife into a serious bearing in life. As we serve You and Your people it will be important for her to be able to control her words. Please keep malicious gossip far from her. Position me so that I can protect her from such a sin. Make her into a woman who is increasingly becoming clear-headed (temperate). I will need such a helper with me in ministry like that. Help me to shepherd her into faithfulness in everything she undertakes in our home and in her ministry. May she be a trustworthy servant in Your eyes.

*"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves  
a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."  
1 Timothy 3:13*

By Your grace and power, enable me to serve You and Your people well. If any high standing may come my way because You are making me into **'a husband of one wife'** in my service, may You be praised by all and above all. And please increase my confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I may be emboldened in my service for Your gospel's sake.

## VII. Good Manager of My Children and Household, 1 Timothy 3:12

*"These men must also first be tested;  
then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."*  
1 Timothy 3:10

### Prayerful Preparation

Lord, I desire Your work in my life in such a way that I will be proven faithful and above reproach as I fulfill Your mission through my church.

So that my church might increasingly glorify You in its mission, grant me courage and humility to position my life and ministry so that my elders may better know me, my character, and my giftedness.

Help my elders to be full of Your grace, truth and wisdom as they measure Your work in my life so they might best determine the ministry You desire me to serve in this body.

Today, heavenly Father, work in my life to increasingly make me into a **'good manager of my children and household'**.

As a **'good manager of my children and household'**, this means that I am providing direct and ongoing oversight of my children and the events of my family. Shape me in such a way that I am eager to stand before and among my children graciously as the head of my household. Help me to see where I may be disconnected from the guidance our children need spiritually, emotionally, etc. Help me to see where my wife may be burdened by my absence. Give me courage to change my work schedule or free time so that my leadership over my family is all that it should be for Your sake and their sake.

*"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves  
a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*  
1 Timothy 3:13

By Your grace and power, enable me to serve You and Your people well. If any high standing may come my way because You are making me into **'a good manager of my children and household'** in my service, may You be praised by all and above all. And please increase my confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that I may be emboldened in my service for Your gospel's sake.