

DEACONS
(Qualifications Given to Timothy)
Lesson 19

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. The Qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 Can Be Grouped Together:

1. By positives (must be) and negatives (must not be).
2. By areas of life (character, habits, and domestic relations).

B. Two "Preliminary" Qualifications:

1. First, a deacon must be a man.
2. Second, a deacon must "first be proved". The Greek word *dokimazo*, means "to test", "to examine", "to prove", with the expectation of approval. See Lesson 14 Introduction for more on the phrase "first be proved".
3. Like an elder, a man must first have these qualifications in place in his life before he is appointed a deacon.

II. QUALIFICATIONS GIVEN TO TIMOTHY.

A. Grave.

1. Gr. *semnos*, "reverent", "august", "dignified", "venerable", "respectful"; hence, "serious", see Phil. 4:8; 1 Tim. 3:8, 11; Tit. 2:2.
2. A deacon must not be frivolous, but take his God-given work of service seriously.

B. Not Double-tongued.

1. Gr. *dilogos*, lit. "two words," "twice speech," "saying the same thing twice"; hence, "repetition", see 1 Tim. 3:8.
2. A deacon must never engage in double-talk, saying one thing to one person and then giving a different view of the same thing to another person with the intent to deceive (for example, speech that is hypocritical, insincere, or deceitful).

C. Not Given to Much Wine.

1. Gr. *mee oino pollo prosechontas*, lit. "not wine much addicted". The Greek word *oinos*, "wine", is the general word for wine in the NT, whether fermented (alcoholic) or unfermented (non-alcoholic) grape juice. See a Bible concordance for its many passages. The Greek word, *prosecho*, means "to turn one's mind to", "attend to", "to be occupied with"; hence, "give oneself up to". See a Bible concordance for its many passages.

2. A deacon must not be addicted to wine.

D. Not Greedy of Filthy Lucre (see Lesson 14).

E. Holding the Mystery of the Faith in a Pure Conscience.

1. Gr. *echo*, "steadfast adherence". Gr. *musterion*, in the NT means "that which can be made known only by divine revelation" (that is, the "gospel"). Gr. *katharos*, "cleansed". Gr. *stmeideesis*, literally, "to know with"; hence, our mind tells us what it knows. Each of these Greek words are used too many times in the NT to list here.
2. A deacon must be a firm believer, loyal to the gospel in belief, and pure in practice. An entirely intellectual attachment to the gospel may lead to doubt and questioning later on.

F. Blameless (see Lesson 15).

G. The Husband of One Wife (see Lesson 14).

H. Ruling Their Children and Their Own Houses Well (see Lesson 14).

III. CONCLUSION. God Has Set the Standard for Deacons. Each Man Must Fit the Qualifications, Not the Other Way Around. Men Should Begin Now to Qualify Themselves to Serve as Deacons in the Lord's Church.

Lesson Nineteen Discussion

1. In what ways are the qualifications for deacons the same as the qualifications for elders?
2. What two "preliminary" qualifications must be considered for a deacon?
3. What does "grave" mean?
4. Describe how a deacon is to use his tongue.
5. What relationship is a deacon supposed to have with wine? Thought question: Is this qualification different in principle from the one given to elders (1 Tim. 3:3)?
6. List the four qualifications for deacons that are exactly the same for elders.
7. What relationship is a deacon supposed to have with the gospel?
8. What two-fold reward can deacons receive for their faithful service (1 Tim. 3:13)?
9. Thought question: What qualification regarding children is not required of a deacon that is required of an elder?