

Sound Doctrine: 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy & Titus

The Position of Leadership - Part 2

1st Timothy 3:8-16, Acts 6:1-7

Leadership • Men tend to avoid • or aggressively pursue These are the marks of <u>qualification</u> Men, we're <u>all</u> called to be Godly leaders	Last Week: Pastors & Elders (spiritual leadership) Today: Deacons (service leadership) Both <u>servants</u> Corporate ladder goes up Ministry ladder goes down A pastor will clean a toilet and a deacon understands the gospel
[Pray] Acts 6:1-4 Hellenists (Jews in Greek culture) Widows being neglected not desirable, pleasing, reasonable Not that they couldn't, but <u>it was keeping the spiritual leadership from spiritually leading</u> The pastors <u>can't and shouldn't do everything</u> (set up, tear down, hospital visits) We're a body! <i>My kids growing up, I can give them more to do</i> Pastor & Elder Focus (expound): • Prayer (receive orders!) • Ministry of the Word (teach, outreach)	Martyreo Good reputation, Honest report Deacons were witnesses to & of Jesus <u>Full of the Holy Spirit</u> <i>"Just as much to do the dishes"</i> Spiritual & service leadership equally need the Holy Spirit (nobody can serve God in their flesh!) :5-7 7 men, ordained to <u>serve</u>. The result? • The Word of God spread! • Disciples increased in number • Religious become obedient to faith This is the <u>result</u> of orderly leadership and orderly service • Deacons feed stomachs • Pastors feed souls

:8

Likewise, deacons

similar qualifications, not as many

What's a deacon?

Servant, waiter, attendant, minister

Lowercase d - servant

Uppercase D - servant leader

Serving in church (volunteering?)

- **Anyone is welcome to visit church**
- **Almost anyone can and should** serve in some way
"Welcome, go stack some chairs"
- **Regular attendees** who claim Jesus should not be in unrepentant sin
 - 1 Cor 5
 - witchcraft, immorality, profuse language, substances, etc
 - Struggling? Depends on influence, may be good for them or a hindrance to healing
"sitting for a season" or "discipline service"

Our flesh can't truly serve God without God's Spirit in charge.

You can't be full/overflowing/epi if you're in willful sin

It's hard to serve others when you're just trying to serve yourself

A waiter bringing himself food

Folks in church who regularly attend and serve faithfully should be considered for service leadership - deacons

Deacons are:

- Spiritual service leader
- Official responsibility
- Oversee practical ministries
- Direct other servants in practical ways
- The go-to crew for church ministry!

Qualifications:

- **Honorable**, grave, honest
- **Not double-tongued**
"Telling a different story"
would be in contrast to their "witness"
One way Sunday, another way Monday
Not a chameleon
- **Not given to much wine**
Not addicted, doesn't drink much

How much is too much? When is it a buzz? When is it more than a buzz? How slippery is that slope
- **Not greedy for money**
Judas was the money keeper

- **Deacons are not in the faith for selfish reasons**
- **They don't serve to be seen either**
- **They serve to serve Jesus**
- All of these traits reveal that
- Deacons have an attitude: willing & eager to do anything and everything

Paul calls himself a <u>doulos</u> (Rom 1) Col 3:22-24 – Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. Phl 2:14-15a – Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless...	A Deacon... • isn't a complainer • finishes the task and looks for the next one • can be counted on Pro 25:19 – Confidence in an unfaithful [man] in time of trouble [is like] a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. It's no service to be of no service When someone relies on you to get the job done, and you don't do it, you burden them more than if they just did it themselves to begin with
A Deacon... • Does what needs to be done without being asked (this is the biggest help) • Picks up the trash, grabs the vacuum • Fixes the seats • Turns off the lights Most of all, makes sure the people are <u>practically</u> taken care of - greeted, seated, Bibles, coffee, doors unlocked, heats on, trash out <i>The stage is set for God to Work</i>	The ministry of the deacon removes practical hindrances to hearing the Word of God. <i>Imagine sitting in a mess, in the dark, in the cold, or having a need and nobody offers to help. At least distracted, at worse, be bitter and won't <u>hear</u></i> Isaiah 40:3 – The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God."
The ministry of the Deacons allows the ministry of the Word to happen	

:9 The mystery of the faith? The gospel fulfilled! Promise in the garden fulfilled in Jesus	OT saints didn't know all to come! Everything has been revealed in Jesus now in the Church Age The hope of the gospel lives in them
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<u>Their lives and service preach even if they don't</u> Deacons serve: • because they know Jesus and do it unto Him • Know the mystery of the gospel and its power and want it to spread • Because they know personally how much Jesus serves them Deacons • Know Jesus • Believe the Bible • Baptized and hold a clean conscience (not in sin) • Jesus is changing their life (sanctified)	And they can explain the <u>who, why and how</u> of the Gospel, their own life's testimony ... Even if they aren't Bible teachers 1Pe 3:15-16 – But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. The mystery itself? We'll dig in v16
The only right response to the mystery - is to serve God faithfully • Not to earn salvation - blasphemy • Serve in response to all <u>Jesus earned</u> for me	• Any service could never repay, yet we serve to say thank you • Serve that others might live • How could you not when you know that?
:10 There's a testing season! <i>Again, do the job, then get the title Not get the title then do the job</i> Being a deacon is being ordained to service The work you're already doing, ratified for more work <i>Don't wait to be asked, jump in and ask how!</i>	Can be a young believer! But make sure that they're not in it for something it isn't (might just not know) <i>Getting saved, wanting nothing else but to know God more, be at church, learn from those who knew him, and join in and serve</i> <i>I had to be a part of what God was already doing - because of what HE did for me</i> My becoming a deacon Best school of ministry, serving, learning

:11-12 Deacons don't <u>have</u> to be married But if they are... Wives must have similar character! • Reverant (same word, semnos) • Not slanderers (slander, false accuser, <u>opposes cause of God</u>) • Temperate (sober!) she's not all over the place emotionally either • Faithful in all things - trusty <i>Definitely the opposite of a worldly woman</i>	Like pastoral ministry, Deacons are the husbands, not the wives A Deacon's homelife must be similarly sanctified Do they serve at church but not at home? <u>It'll be evident by their families.</u> • Adults getting saved, kids not yet - OK, you can see the parents working through it • Man saved, wife not - she was his service ministry even though he'd make an excellent deacon • Many husbands and wives serve together <i>Greeting, cafe, worship, kids, outreach, etc.</i>
:13 <u>serving Jesus is the highest honor</u> World looks down, wants to be served God lifts up servants. Honorable position. <i>"DG Doubtless deacons with a greater reward than pastors"</i> Serious faith leads to serious service. Serious service leads to even more serious faith. Good standing Faith > pew > strengthened > stand & serve In the church, out of the church A standing ovation in heaven	:14-15 <i>Paul would have liked to say this in person, but it couldn't wait. So he wrote.</i> The point of these instructions? How to <u>behave</u> in church! <u>Church, religious word.</u> Maybe we view it as a destination, a spiritual restaurant or event or place to get served <u>it's the gathering of His people for a purpose:</u> • To worship God: prayer, song, fellowship, teaching and <u>service</u> • To be equipped for the Christian life - <u>of service MINISTRY</u>

<u>Church is God's house!</u> <i>How do you treat your own home?</i> <i>Best friend's? Strangers? Boss'?</i> <i>What about God's?</i> You should feel at home but also respect it - good stewardship - • care for the people • and things of the Lord God is <u>living</u>, his house should be lived in, full of <u>life</u>, not a place of dead things	The church is the pillar and ground of truth Remember their day: Greco-Roman architecture Huge columns, magnificent foundations, buildings. We still copy it. Temples to gods and men. Signs are posted. <i>This may be the picture Paul is making</i> The church, gathering of His people, the house of God has a purpose: • Be a place where the truth is protected • Held high • Proclaimed
If anyone wants to find out about the whole truth of God - where should they go? • Library? • Government? • Temple of Artemis? • Internet? Tik tok? YouTube? • No, the church! The gathering of God's people!	It is the church's mission to be the place where truth is found. When folks come to church - they should hear the truth of Jesus. See it lifted high. But also lived out, through His people, His servants.
Even the world expects this! They call out churches that aren't this way • righteousness of the people (not hypocrites living in sin) • Expect the truth to be preached • Expect it to be orderly • Expect to see Jesus and hear about Him That's the point of these letters	It's why being seeker-friendly is such a slippery slope from truth - truth offends. "You can't handle the truth" A church is dead if it loses the truth. <i>Empty branch for birds of the air (doc of dem)</i> But if you give them the truth, and they want the truth, they will be back <i>Church in NY vs. Friends who don't know anyone - may we serve the truth and others!</i>

:16 <i>“Ought to be no controversy” Spurgeon</i> The mystery the deacons hold in good conscience as they serve The truth being held up and put in a place of honor by the church The truth the pulpit preaches The lives of the church are submitted to John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.	• Jesus, God with us in the flesh. Real. • Served us in the Spirit, unto death • Angels proclaimed him 1 Peter 1:12 – To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into. • Raised up and ascended to Heaven • Message so important his followers would leave all and die to spread it • And the World would never be the same
They mystery is what Godliness is about If you’ve received the truth, your life will be changed! <u>You’ll go from wanting to be served To wanting to serve</u> <u>Your life will begin to automatically fulfill the qualifications</u> Because the qualifications reveal the mystery of the truth and God’s Spirit working in you The truth does the work in your heart The Spirit gives you the ability to be changed by it - by Him	It takes work to spread the gospel And there’s plenty to do <i>Meeting in a school vs. a building</i> <i>It was clear there was a lot to do when we were unloading and loading every week</i> <i>Even if it looks like everything is done, it’s not, people need help too</i> <i>Even if everything is done that’s on the current list, there’s something more to do with your gifts and talents</i> Pray about how <u>you</u> can serve God more • From your salvation • In your home • In your marriage • In your job • And in and through His Church