

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Pg 992

Title: The Dignity of Deacons Service

I. What is a deacon?

A. One whose service enables others to serve

B. One whose maturing faith is obvious by their character and conduct

C. One whose faithfulness is rewarded with a good standing in the church and a great confidence in Christ Jesus.

Sermon Study Guide

(Reminder: The purpose of the questions is to explore the text and themes of the sermon. **Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions.**

The goal is to stimulate discussion/reflection and transformation related to the sermon text and themes.)

1. Having taught on the qualifications of elders (3:1-7), Paul now turns to the qualifications of deacons (3:8-13). The elders primary responsibilities are church oversight and teaching while the deacons primary responsibility is to serve by enabling others to serve. How do these two offices work together rather than against one another? How does the entire congregation benefit when deacons fulfill their ministry? What happens if a church has a strong team of elders but not a strong team of deacons?
2. Elders bear ultimate responsibility for the church (oversight & teaching) so we might think they need to have a higher level of character yet we see many of the same traits listed for deacons. What does that reveal? Why does a deacon's faith, character, and home matter? Why does Paul require that a potential deacon be "tested" before being appointed? Who does the "testing" and what's involved?
3. What does this section of 1 Timothy teach us about God's character and His concern for the Church? Why is faithfulness a requirement in ministry? What's lost when faithfulness is absent? What's gained when faithfulness is present, how does it promote the gospel?
4. Discuss how you should respond to this passage? Perhaps it is to pray for our deacons, to thank God for them; to look and see who might be qualified to serve, to consider whether that could be you, etc.?