

**The Qualifications of Deacons
1 Timothy 3:8-13**

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1. In Acts 6, we learned that the servants were chosen by the church because the needs of a growing church were more than the apostles could handle. They needed other men to minister to the needs of the people.
2. We find our church in a similar situation to that of the first church in Jerusalem.
3. Let's examine three types of qualifications for deacons and their rewards for faithful service.

I. The Personal Qualifications for Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8).

- A. Deacons must be **“worthy of respect.”**
- B. Deacons must be **“sincere.”**
- C. Deacons must **“not indulge in much wine.”**
- D. Deacons must **“not pursue dishonest gain.”**

II. The Spiritual Qualifications for Deacons (1 Timothy 3:9-10).

- A. Deacons must **“keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.”**
- B. Deacons must **“first be tested.”**
 1. **1 Timothy 5:22** says **“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands.”**
- C. **“Then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.”**

III. The Family Qualifications for Deacons (1 Timothy 3:11-12).

- A. A deacon's wife must have godly characteristics.
 1. A deacon's wife must be **“worthy of respect.”**
 2. A deacon's wife must not be a **“malicious talker.”**
 3. A deacon's wife must be **“temperate.”**
 4. A deacon's wife must be **“trustworthy in everything.”**
- B. Deacons must be the **“husband of but one wife.”**
 1. The meaning of this phrase is heavily debated.
 2. They are to have healthy marriages.
- C. Deacons must manage their **“children and household well.”**

IV. The Rewards for Faithful Deacons (1 Timothy 3:13).

- A. Our church has been blessed to have men and their wives who “have served well as deacons.”
- B. Faithful deacons will receive **“an excellent standing.”**
- C. Faithful deacons will receive **“great assurance in their faith.”**