

The Qualifications of a Deacon

Introduction:

- The word “deacon” literally means “one who runs on errands, an attendant, a _____.”
- The deacon is an extension of the _____ and their ministry. The office of deacon was initiated with the purpose of helping the ministry to function more effectively.
- Because of this, the office of deacon carries with it a high standard of qualifications. These are listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- Paul explains in this text what a godly leader looks like. These attributes have nothing to do with popularity or personality. They deal with the man’s _____ - who he is.
- Leadership is simply spiritual _____ that others can examine and follow.

The qualifications of a deacon.

1. A deacon must be _____. vs. 8
 - This word “grave” means “held in high respect by reason of character.”
2. A deacon must not be _____-tongued. vs. 8
 - There is no place for a man to be a deacon who cannot control his _____.
3. A deacon must not be given to much _____. vs. 8
 - The spiritually mature person has the peace of God within and doesn’t have to look to any substance for a relaxed _____. He is able to face and confront _____ and control his inner spirit through Christ within.
4. A deacon must not be _____ of filthy lucre. vs.8
 - The deacon cannot be in love with money.
 - Jesus is _____ of the deacon’s pocketbook.
5. A deacon must hold the mystery of the _____ in a pure conscience. vs. 9
 - This is speaking of doctrinal purity.
6. A deacon must be _____. vs. 10
 - He must have established a good and faithful testimony.

7. The deacon must be _____. vs. 10
 - The deacon should have a solid, honest testimony.
8. The deacon must be the husband of one wife. vs. 12
 - The phrase *“husband of one wife”* carries the idea of a man who presents himself as a “one woman man.” He demonstrates himself to be faithful in a monogamous marriage.
 - Paul is dealing with the issue of _____ fidelity to one woman.
 - Here is the issue: Does the man present himself as a man wholly dedicated and committed to _____ woman? If there is a reason to doubt this, he is disqualified.
9. A deacon must rule his children and his own _____ well.

The qualifications of a deacon’s wife.

1. A deacon’s wife must be grave. vs. 11
2. A deacon’s wife must not be a slanderer. vs. 11
3. A deacon’s wife must be _____. vs. 11
 - The deacon’s wife should be very serious about serving God with her husband.
4. A deacon’s wife must be _____ in all things. vs. 11
 - *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*

1 Corinthians 4:2

In Conclusion:

1. Paul is dealing with the _____ character of a man and his wife, not their past.
2. But is it ever permissible for the church to look at the person’s past to determine if he meets these qualifications? There are two questions to ask in regards to this:
 - First, is it _____ past or distant past?
 - Second, does looking at certain events in the past help the church in determining the _____ character of the person?
 - The church has stepped beyond its biblical guidelines once it holds a _____ sin against a candidate regardless of his present character.