

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 6: Deacon Qualifications for the Church

Central Text: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Deacon- Greek δίακονος [*diakonos*] servant, attendant, minister

Ryrie: “In Greek writings “deacon” described a waiter, a messenger, a steward, and a servant. These uses may reinforce the concept that official deacons in the church did whatever kinds of service the elders dedicated to them.”

In the broad sense, all believers are to be servants.

John 12:26 - “If anyone serves Me (diakoneo), he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me (diakoneo), the Father will honor him.”

The word is used for one’s spiritual gift:

Romans 12:6-7 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service (or ministry), in his servicing (our ministering); or he who teaches, in his teaching;”

Used in an unofficial sense (with a focus on Christian service):

Colossians 1:7 - just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

1 Timothy 4:6 - “In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.”

Deacon and elders are distinct offices as seen in 1 Timothy 3:1-13

1 Timothy 3:8 - Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain

The word “likewise” that indicates another category, namely, deacons.

Central text to support the office of deacons in the early church.

Acts 6:4 - Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Qualifications for deacons.

1 Timothy 3:8-10 - Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Suggested attributes and characteristics of God:

Humility- Even though God is above all, He still sent His Son to serve us (John 13:1-17). Therefore, we should serve one another even if we are not a deacon in the church.

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

1 Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-7