

What Must a Deacon Be? (1 Tim. 3:8-13)  
GCC, Morning Worship, 9/15/19

Introduction:

- A. Whence Deacons? (Acts 6:1–6)
- B. Why the question: “What must a deacon be?”
  - 1. Because the Congregation must know what they should expect in a deacon
  - 2. Because the prospective and aspiring deacons must know and embrace that to which they are called
  - 3. Because deacons must be examined according to the standard of God’s Word

*Eight Qualities of a Deacon and His Service to the Church*

- I. A Deacon must be *dignified* (v. 8)
  - A. Honor, Dignity, Maturity
  - B. Honor is Handled with Care and Earned (cf. 1 Tim 5:17)
  - C. A Deacon Should Have a Good Reputation Inside and Outside the Church (cf. 1 Tim 3:7)
  - D. Honor and a Good Reputation are Earned
- II. Deacons are *not double-tongued* (v. 8)
- III. Deacons are *not addicted to much wine* (v. 8)
- IV. Deacons are *not greedy for dishonest gain* (v. 8)
- V. Deacons are *sound in faith and life* (v. 9)
  - A. Holding to the Mystery of the Faith is the Foundational Qualification of the Deacon
  - B. What is mysterious about the faith?
    - 1. Mysterious in Content
    - 2. Mysterious in Power (1 Cor. 1:18)
- VI. A Deacon is to be *blameless* (v. 10)
  - A. Can he really do this?
- VII. A Deacon is the *husband of one wife* (v. 12)
  - A. Does not mean that he has only been married once (cf. 1 Cor 7:39)
  - B. Refers to the exclusive faithfulness of a husband toward his wife
- VIII. A Deacon must *manage children and household well* (v. 12)
  - A. A deacon must be the spiritual leader of his wife and children
- IX. Application to Deacons
  - 1. Glory and revel in the privilege of the Diaconate
  - 2. What awaits faithful deacons (5:13)

**Questions for Application and Discussion:**

1. What crisis precipitated the need for, and the establishment of, the diaconate?
2. What does the establishment of the diaconate say about what the primary goal of the church should be (see Acts 6:2–4)?
3. Why are the qualifications of a deacon more concerned with character and conviction than talent and tasks?
4. Why is important for the congregation to know what is expected of her deacons?
5. Why is it important that a deacon be dignified and respected both inside and outside the church?
6. What are the two ways that the faith is mysterious and why does this matter to the character and work of deacons?
7. Why is the management of the deacon's household so important?