

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for September 4-5, 2004

"The Character of Church Deacons"

1 Timothy 3:8-13

The word "deacon" is a general term for a servant (1 Timothy 4:6) and is used here as an official position in the church.

At Valley Bible, our seventeen deacons assist our four elders in their oversight of the church by serving in leadership of specific ministries.

1. The character of church deacons (3:8)

The character qualifications for deacons are similar to elders. The one difference is that elders must be "able to teach."

- a. A deacon must be committed
- b. A deacon must be consistent
- c. A deacon must be controlled
- d. A deacon must be content

2. The conviction of church deacons (3:9)

- a. Possessing New Testament faith
- b. Practicing New Testament faith

3. The confirmation of church deacons (3:10)

Deacons should be approved after a period of testing in ministry. The present tense indicates an on-the-job evaluation.

The average deacon has been attending and serving our church for over 18 years.

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4. The composition of church deacons (3:11)

Deacons can be male or female. The word "women" does not mean only "deacons wives" because:

- No qualifications are given for the wives of elders.
- The word "likewise" sets this verse apart from the preceding verses about deacons.
- Pheobe is described as a deacon in Romans 16:1.
- The word "their" is missing.
- The qualifications for these women parallel the qualifications for male deacons.

- a. A deaconess must be committed
- b. A deaconess must be careful
- c. A deaconess must be controlled
- d. A deaconess must be consistent

5. The control by church deacons (3:12)

- a. Good management of themselves
- b. Good management of their children
- c. Good management of their household

If we cannot lead those closest to us, we cannot lead those further from us.

6. The commendation of church deacons (3:13)

- a. The assurance of our standing before God
- b. The assurance of our faith in God

The maturity of a deacon comes by a growing obedience.