

The Body of Christ: Everyone Has a Part

What Deacon's Must Be

Review:

Putting Flesh on the Bones: The Relationships of the Local Church

Members (Spiritual Growth & Discipling relationships)

Deacons: (1) **Sharpen Biblical Focus** (2) Communicate

Elders (1) Sharpen Biblical Focus (2) Communicate

What Deacon's Must Be ¹

1 Timothy 3:14–15

1 Timothy 3:1–7

1 Timothy 3:8–13

Dignified...(worthy of respect/honor")

"Don't miss this easy-to-forget lesson: God cares more about character than about gifting."

"The thematic parallels between his more general letter to members of the Ephesian church, written around AD 60, and the qualifications for deacons listed in 1 Timothy 3:8–13, written around AD 62–64, are striking."

1. Not double-tongued... (insincere) **Ephesians 4:29**

2. Not addicted² to much wine... **Ephesians 5:18**

3. Not greedy for dishonest gain... **Ephesians 4:28; 5:5**

4. Hold the **mystery of the faith** with a **clear conscience**...
Ephesians 3:1–10

¹ I am again indebted to Matt Smethurst's book "*Deacons*," this time from cpt. 3 – "*The Baseline: What Deacon's Must Be*." All quotes are from this book unless otherwise noted.

² "to pay close attention to someth., pay attention to, give heed to, follow." Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed., p. 880). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

“...deacons are not exempt from knowing their Bibles. In fact, they will often be in situations where they will have opportunity to speak biblical truth. The question, then, is not whether deacons will be theologians; it’s whether they will be good ones.” **[Know, Hold, & Live the Faith]**

5. Let them also be tested first... (to determine genuineness, *put to the test, examine*³)

“Paul isn’t explicit about the length or nature of the testing. What should the process entail and how long should it last? Individual churches must exercise wisdom and prayerful discernment. What is nonnegotiable, however, is that there should be a season of testing.”

6. Women/Wives? **1 Timothy 2:11–15; Titus 2:3–5**

7. Faithful Family Life...

Ephesians 5:22–33 – Wives-Husbands

Ephesians 6:1–4 – Children-Fathers

Ephesians 6:5–9 – Slaves-Masters

What is the Point?

“...deacons must embody the kind of character expected of all Christians. But they should be exemplary in the ordinary.”

The Promise (v. 13)

(Next Week: Our Deacon Board)

³ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). [*A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*](#) (3rd ed., p. 255). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.