

## The Office Of A Deacon 1 Timothy 3:8-14

### ➤ THE PASSAGE

#### ✓ *Grave*(v. 8)

- The meaning is serious and sober-minded.
- Paul tells Timothy right from the start that this task is not to be taken lightly. Clarke says, “Of a sedate and dignified carriage and conduct.”
- This same word (translated “grave”) appears in verse 11 and Titus 2:2.
- There is no sin in relaxation (Matthew 26:45 ; Mark 6:31), but serious tasks demand serious minds.

#### ✓ *Not doubletongued* (v. 8)

- “That is, telling a different story: - double-tongued” (Strong’s).
- A man who tells the story of Christ with his mouth while telling a different story with his life is guilty (in principle) of being doubletongued.
- “A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8).

#### ✓ *Not given to much wine* (v. 8)

- “See 1Tim. 3:3. The word ‘much’ is added here to what is said (1Tim. 3:2) of the qualification of a bishop. It is not affirmed that it would be proper for the deacon, anymore than the bishop, to indulge in the use of wine in small quantities, but it ‘is’ affirmed that a man who is much given to the use of wine ought not, on any consideration, to be a deacon” (Barnes).
- Drinking alcohol (in any amount) is condemned by verses like Ephesians 5:18 which states, “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”
- It is akin to saying, “don’t get into a lot of trouble.” Parents who give their children this instruction do not authorize moderate amounts of trouble!

#### ✓ *Not greedy of filthy lucre* (v. 8)

- There is no room for greed.
- Some church positions were/are for pay. “For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer *is* worthy of his reward” (1 Timothy 5:18).
- Greed extends beyond money, however. There is no room for unbridled desire for popularity (Galatians 1:10), glory (3 John 9), or authority (3 John 10). Some have no real interest in working as a deacon, but they see it as the first (necessary) step before being an elder which is what they really covet.

#### ✓ *Hold the faith* (v. 9)

- “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith” (1 John 5:4).
- Upholding the faith is of the utmost importance. Sometimes church leaders can get so bogged down that they forget about the faith.

#### ✓ *Blameless* (v. 10)

- The word means, “unaccused, that is, (by implication) irreproachable” (Strong’s).

- If (when) criticism come(s), a deacon is supposed to be someone whose life repels all accusations. Do you welcome investigation, or does it make you mad? Do you consider your life an open book? Do you appreciate the efforts of your brethren to loving point out sin in your life and offer suggestions?
- Blameless does not mean sinless. See Romans 3:23. Too many shy away from such important positions because they feel inferior.
- ✓ *Family matters (vv. 11, 12)*
  - God desires that a deacon be married with children. There is valuable experience that comes from such.
    - The deacon's wife is to be serious about her Christianity and her husband's work. (A wife who flippantly says, "Do whatever you want," or "I don't care if you become a deacon" does not meet this standard.)
    - The deacon's wife is to be faithful in **all** things. Nothing is left out (i.e. attendance, involvement, modesty, **everything is included**). She is not to be a slander.
    - A deacon is to rule his own house orderly. A bad home life disqualifies many from noble service as a deacon. Can God say of you what He said about Abraham: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment (Genesis 18:19)?"
    - Barnes explains "the husband of one wife" as follows: "(1) It is the most obvious meaning of the language, and it would doubtless be thus understood by those to whom it was addressed. At a time when polygamy was not uncommon, to say that a man should 'have but one wife' would be naturally understood as prohibiting polygamy. (2) The marriage of a second wife, after the death of the first, is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as wrong." (The marriage of another woman after a Scriptural divorce is nowhere spoken of as wrong either-DJF.)

➤ THE PRINCIPLE

- ✓ "And in those days, when the number of the disciples were multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" (Acts 6:1-3).
- ✓ It is crystal clear from Acts 6 (which may or may not focus on the office of a deacon), that **first there was a job that needed to be done, and then they found a man for that job!** The idea of giving someone a position without knowing what job he will do is UNSCRIPTURAL. (This happens much too frequently in churches today!)

➤ THE PLEA

- ✓ "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).
- ✓ "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).