

CHARACTER QUALITIES FOR DEACONS – 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

Today as we conclude our series of character qualities our attention shifts to the _____ of deacon. The word simply means—*one that serves or servant of the local church*. This important second office is not based on a man’s social status, diplomatic savvy, or financial means but rather rests solely upon his _____ and _____ common sense. Because every pastor’s administration requires its own unique support, the appointed duties of deacons differ from church to church. However, what does _____ change are the character traits every deacon must embody. Although similar to that of a pastor, these particular attributes apply to any responsibilities assigned to any deacon at any time in history.

1. The _____ found in the first deacons – Acts 6:1-7

a. Why they were necessary

- To address a problem in the church
- To perform _____ duties in the daily ministrations of the local church
- To free the pastor’s time allowing them to focus on the _____ matters of the church (preaching and teaching the word *in all necessary aspects* and prayer)

b. How they were chosen

- They must be men with 3 overall character qualities: 1) men of honest report; 2) full of the Holy Ghost; 3) men full of wisdom
- They are _____ upon by the multitude of disciples – all the church members
- Those elected are ultimately appointed and commissioned by the pastors

c. What was the intended result

- To increase the word of God and prayer
- To increase the ability of the church to multiply disciples

d. Observations we learn and can apply today

- It is _____ a popularity contest
- It is a spiritual appointment for a physical service
- There is no apparent limitation to the time of service – Acts 21:8

There can be limitations set, nothing specifically says otherwise, but no apparent term limit is presented anywhere in scripture

- Their labor is based on the needs and circumstances of the particular local church

The deacons of FBCJ are chosen and appointed to the following service:

Meet regularly with the senior pastor for updates on business and affairs

Render opinions and advice concerning difficult circumstances, and offer scriptural wisdom and help the pastor(s) with godly counsel

Are available to serve anywhere at any time in vital situations or emergencies

Lead the church in the event of the loss of the senior pastor, carrying out the letter and spirit of our constitution until a replacement is secured

Distribute the elements during a communion service

Open and close the building – in doing so they watch out for any building or grounds problems that might obstruct our assemblies or safety

Visit the shut in or infirmed members when possible

Have a leadership role in a variety of appointed duties, events and assemblies

Represent the church members to the pastor concerning various issues of importance

They are not a decision-making body

They are forbidden to meet as a deacon body without the senior pastor or his designated representative present

They guard and insure our constitution

They guard our mission statement and protect the value of the King James Bible and the preserved words of God for English speaking peoples (English – the only worldwide language of our time)

- There are _____ men chosen

This was based on the particular need at that time. There could be less, there could be more. No apparent set number is given in scripture. Here at FBCJ, under the current administration of Pastor Thomas Gang, we have seven deacons, no more no less, as found in Acts 6

2. The deacon's character qualities of 1 Timothy 3:8-13

- a. As they apply to him _____ – verses 8-9

- Grave
- Not double-tongued
- Not given to much wine – 1 Timothy 3:3a; 8a; 5:23
- Not greedy of filthy lucre
- Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience

b. As they apply in the local church – verse 10

- Proven
- Blameless

c. As they apply to his _____ – verses 11-12

- A deacon's wife must be:

- Grave
- Not a slanderer
- Sober
- Faithful in all things

- The husband of one wife
- Ruling their children well – 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6
- Ruling their own houses well

3. The personal and church wide benefits of this office – 1 Timothy 3:13

a. A good _____

- Like earning a degree or official recognition (but from God) – it's really good
- A deacon that serves well earns an extraordinary reputation in the sight of the membership

b. Great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus

- Throughout the practice of his responsibilities a deacon who serves well ends up with great confidence in his capacity to _____ God