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# Deacons as Model Servants

1 Timothy 3:8-13

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Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

Mark 10:43-44





# Deacons are Servants



1 Timothy 3:8-13

deacon = *diakonos* / “**servant**” (v. 8, 12)

let them **serve** (v. 10)

those who **serve** well (v. 13)

Their job – perfect the role of service to the church



# Qualifications

## Overlap with Overseers



Dignity (v. 8, 2)

Not addicted to much wine (v. 8, 3)

Not fond of sordid gain (v. 8, 3)

Also first tested (v. 10)

Above reproach (v. 10, 2)

Husband of one wife (v. 12, 2)

Good manager of household (v. 12, 4-5)



# Qualifications

## Differences from Overseers



A less extensive list

No “able to teach” requirement

No “not a new convert” requirement

A different role – serve well (v. 13) vs. rule well (5:17)



# Qualifications

## Other Qualities



Not double-tongued (v. 8)

Holding to the mystery of the faith (v. 9)



# Women Deacons?

1 Timothy 3:11



Flow – male deacons (v. 8-10), women (v. 11), male deacons (v. 12-13)

Far fewer qualifications – missing marriage requirement (compare 3:12, 2, 5:9)

Not a separate office, but inclusion in evaluating a man's family life (v. 11-12)



# Women Deacons?

Phoebe – Romans 16:1



“Servant” usually used in unofficial sense  
(1 Tim. 4:6, Col. 1:7)...

...unless context indicates otherwise  
(Phil. 1:1, 1 Tim. 3:8,12)

Regardless of application, principle of 1 Tim. 2:12  
must not be violated



# Deacons' Wives

1 Timothy 3:11



A practical reason

A relationship reason

This is one way she exercises her God-given role as helper (Genesis 2:18)



# Reward

1 Timothy 3:13



Lists bookended by honoring overseers' (v. 1) and  
deacons' work (v. 13)

God holds them in high esteem – so should we!  
(1 Thess. 5:12-13)



# Conclusion



We should trust God's design

We should honor the servants among us

We should all serve well