

How to Know if Someone is Qualified to be a Deacon
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Introduction: Our God has given us his word so we can apply it.

- A. Our ability to apply God's word is a mark of maturity. (**Heb 5:14**)
 - 1. Some say: "It is wrong to interpret the Bible!" No, rather we should not interpret it falsely! (**Eph 5:17**)
 - 2. We have no choice but to apply the scriptures! (**2 Tim 2:15**)
- B. We are in the process of determining men who are qualified to be deacons.
 - 1. God has given us His qualifications to apply! (**1 Tim 3:8-13**)
 - 2. Since every member is a part of this process it is likely that there will be struggles and disagreements as we make applications.

1. Qualifications of deacons (1 Tim 3:8-13)

- A. The qualifications are fewer than what was given for elders.
 - 1. **Reverent** - "serious, grave.... denoting what inspires reverence and awe... The word points to seriousness of purpose and to self-respect in conduct."
 - 2. **Not double-tongued** - "primarily means saying the same thing twice, or given to repetition (dis, twice; logos, a word, or speech); hence, saying a thing to one person and giving a different view of it to another, double-tongued."
 - 3. **Not given to much wine** - "ma - not, by no means; oino - wine; pollo - abundant, plenteous much; prosechontas - to be given or addicted to"
 - 4. **Not greedy for money** - means greedy of base gain.
 - 5. **Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.** - "The good conscience is the feeling of approval for living consistent with the revelation which he believes. His conscience does not accuse him of hypocrisy."
 - 6. **First be tested** - "to test, prove, with the expectation of approving." "Also" v. 10 denotes that the same applies to the elders.
 - 7. **Blameless** - "signifies that which cannot be called to account; i.e., with nothing laid to one's charge."
 - 8. **The husband of one wife** - (mias - one; gunikos - wife; andres husband) - means married to one wife.
 - 9. **Ruling their children and their own houses well.**
 - a. The word "rule" means: "lit. to stand before, hence, to lead, attend to ... with reference to a family, 1 Tim. 3:4 and 12".
 - b. Nothing is said about "believing children," thus his children may be younger than an elder's.
- B. The work of a deacon is one of service while an Elder has the responsibility of oversight!

II. Qualifications of elders and deacons wives

- A. All of their qualifications are found in **1 Tim 3:11**.
1. **Reverent** - this is the same word used for deacons.
 2. **Not slanderers** - diabolos - devil 35, false accuser 2, slanderer 1; 1) prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely 1a) a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer, 2) metaph. applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him.
 3. **Temperate** - it means: "sober, vigilant." It denotes self-control!
 4. **Faithful in all things** - this means: 1. Trusted and reliable; 2. Believing trusting, relying.
 - a. She would be faithful in Christian duties and her place in the church!
 - b. She would not usurp authority over the man. **(1 Tim 2:11-12)**
- B. The work of these men will be enhanced or destroyed by their wives!
1. On one hand they are not deacons or elders! The work is to be done by their husbands.
 2. The real danger comes when a wife of an elder or deacon uses their tongue improperly. The damage done by one who knows so much that has been given in confidence cannot be overstated.
 3. Their wives will be making great sacrifice and effort in the work of their husbands.

III. What does it mean to be qualified?

- A. Do these meet the God-given qualifications?
1. Look at the list of qualifications and ask if every one are met!
 2. Those who select men on the basis of subjective standards are not obeying God! **(1 Tim 6:3-4, 4:6)**
- B. Avoid the additional qualifications of men.
1. When we make our own rules we add to God's word. **(Rev 22:18-19)**
 2. Most of the rules added by men are unreasonable and the ones who make them would not want them placed upon themselves! **(Mt 23:4)**
- C. Some common misconceptions.
1. "A man has a fault and therefore is not perfect!" - No man is perfect, but is he qualified? **(1 Jn 1:10)**
 2. " This one sinned years ago, according to talk I have heard, and never made a public confession!" - The Bible requires as a fruit of repentance that I let others who know of my sin to also know I have repented. When someone years later spreads gossip about private matters that have been resolved, this is wrong!

Conclusion: Do you respect the word of God?

- A. Will we mix God's word with faith in our hearts? **(1 Tim 2:13)**
- B. If we will trust God, He will bless us and His work will be accomplished.