

## Doctrine of Deacons

### Biblical Qualifications

#### 1 Timothy 3:8-13

*“Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

1. A Deacon must be a converted man. This is implied in *Scripture*.
2. A Deacon must meet specific qualifications that are both positive and negative.
  - A Deacon must be grave.
  - A Deacon must not be double-tongued.
  - A Deacon must be one not given to much wine.
  - A Deacon must be one who is holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
  - A Deacon must first be proved.
  - [A Deacon must be married (?)...Is this not implied in the text? If so would this disqualify a widower from serving? What about a mature single man who has never been married?]
  - A Deacon must be married to a woman who is grave, not a slanderer, sober and faithful in all things.
  - A Deacon must be the husband of one woman.
  - [A Deacon must have children (?)...Is this not implied? If so, what is to be said for the godly but childless man who is married?]
  - A Deacon must be able to rule his children and his house well.