

Intro.

- A. The elders have asked us to prayerful consider \_\_\_ additional men to be added to our deacons.
  - 1. *Chris Holmes*
  - 2. *Steve Lamb*
- B. There is no improvement on God’s plan for church organization, **c. Phil. 1:1**
  - 1. When properly organized, a congregation’s work can be accomplished in a wonderful way.
  - 2. Elders have gtest. responsibility for church’s work(as leaders), but don’t under estimate impt. of deacon
  - 3. Deacons can & should render gt. service in the Kingdom of God.

Discuss.**I. WHAT IS THE OFFICE OF A DEACON?**

- A. It is a work.
  - 1. *Deacon* comes from a word which means *servant*.
  - 2. All Christians must serve, but deacons have a special responsibility, **Ac. 6:1-3**
  - 3. It is not an *honorary office*. (Note the word – *use* – in **1 Tim. 3:10**)
  - 4. A deacon who will not serve is as unthinkable as a preacher who will not preach, elder who will not lead.
- B. It is a work to be performed → *under the elders*.
  - 1. Deacons are not “co-elders” or “junior elders”.
  - 2. Some have entertained an erroneous idea that *Elders are over the spiritual, & deacons are over material*.
  - 3. Elders necessarily delegate specific responsibilities to designated deacons (benevolence, building & grounds, educational program, needs of the elderly, worship assemblies, etc.)

**II. WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A DEACON?**

- A. You find some general qualifications alluded to in **Ac. 6:3**
  - 1. *honest* - men of integrity, trustworthy, reliable
  - 2. *full of the Spirit* - evidenced by daily holy living
  - 3. *full of wisdom* - appropriate application of Bible knowledge in own lives; good sense & judgment
- B. More specific qualifications were given to Timothy for deacons in **1 Tim. 3:8-12**
  - 1. Positively --
    - a. *husband of one wife* -- excluding those who have more or less than 1 living wife!!!
    - b. *ruling household well* -- he is the head of the family, & respected as such (wife nor children ruling).
    - c. *Reverent / grave* – serious minded; not flighty or frivolous
    - d. *sound in the faith* -- Knows God’s truth, & that is what he stands for (Keeps rules straight!)  
*hold* (c.**Mt. 21:26**) *mystery of faith in good conscience* – faith’s container = **a good conscience 1 Tim.**
  - 2. Negatively --
    - a. *not double-tongued* -- does not talk out of both sides of his mouth
    - b. *not greedy for money* – not materialistic or covetous
    - c. (*not a novice*) – a recent convert, immature in the faith (**10a**) → needs *first to be proved*
  - 3. A deacon’s wife (because she is a reflection on him, as is his family):
    - a. *a reverent wife* – worshipful, devout, honest, dignified
    - b. *not a slanderer* (an accuser, makes accusations against others inciting strife)
    - c. *temperate* (discrete, sober, to keep well in hand)
    - d. *faithful in all things* expending duties & responsibilities according to the right purpose, w/o patriality or respect of persons (A. Clarke); able to keep private matters private,

**III. HOW ARE MEN SELECTED FOR THIS OFFICE c. 1 Tim. 3:13?**

- A. How many deacons should there be?
  - 1. Depends on the need within a congregation. (see survey) [*How many employees in a sm. business?*]
  - 2. **Caution:** No. 1 problem of deacons = *inactivity!*

B. Who should select the deacons?

1. Two basic considerations: *law of love* - **Col. 3:14**, & *rule of order* – c. **1 Cor. 14:40**
2. The congregation needs to be considered in this process (c. **Ac. 6:3**)
3. Not a matter of close personal feeling, but of *qualifications*.

Concl.

- A. It is no small thing to ask a man to serve as a deacon.
- B. They should be encouraged to do the work that God intends for them to do.