

The Qualifications of an Deacon

1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12

- Reverent (deep respect for God, an awareness of His constant presence)
- Not double-tongued (genuine, sincere, no guile)
- Not given to much wine (not controlled by any substance, filled with the Spirit)
- Not greedy for money (integrity regarding finances, content in the Lord)
- Strong faith (a deep trust in the Lord)
- Clear conscience (has received forgiveness, no unconfessed sin, no guilty conscience)
- Tested (proven, a track record of faithfulness, stands strong in tough situations)
- Blameless (no unconfessed skeletons in the closet, respected by others)
- One wife (a solid monogamous marriage, content with his wife)
- Rules children & households well (good leadership in the home)

Acts 6:3

- Full of the Holy Spirit
- Full of wisdom

Bottom line:

- Christian maturity
- Christian leadership demonstrated in the home
- Very faithful

The Qualifications of a Deacon's Wife

1 Tim. 3:11

- Reverent (deep respect for God; an awareness of God's holy presence)
- Not slanderers (not given to gossip; speaks well of people)
- Temperate (self-controlled)
- Faithful in all things (responsible; serves unto the Lord; God-focused)

Bottom line:

- Christian maturity
- Very faithful

Practical Tasks of a Deacon

All believers are called to be faithful, available, and teachable (“FAT” for short). Practically speaking, a deacon is super faithful, super available, and super teachable (i.e., super FAT).

The roots behind the office of deacon appear to be in Acts 6:1-7. There was a conflict that arose over the equitable distribution of food. The church leaders responded by overseeing the appointment of seven individuals to faithfully carry out this ministry task, resulting in better food distribution and in the freeing up of the apostles’ time so that they could more fully focus on the Word and prayer.

Deacons are exemplary servers who oversee and give themselves to practical ministry service. They often oversee various helps-related ministries, and are often entrusted with oversight over various aspects of the finances and assets of the church. In addition, in some cases, a deacon may serve on the governing board of the church.

Deacons must serve in the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3), not in the flesh. Deacons who serve well obtain “a good standing” and “great boldness in the faith” (1 Tim. 3:13). They are worthy of respect and are given grace to walk in boldness/confidence. Deacons fill an essential role in the church.