

DEACON QUALIFICATIONS

The Greek word translated “deacon” means servant. The deacon is one who serves and ministers to the church. The Bible sets forth the following qualifications for deacons:

I. ACTS 6:3 *“But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.”*

1. “from among you” – Relationally grounded, personally committed, and spiritually growing
2. “good reputation” – A respectable person inside and outside this fellowship
3. “full of the Spirit” – A Spirit-filled person as observed by the fruit of the Spirit in their lives
4. “full of . . . wisdom” – A person who can make right decisions
5. “in charge of this task” – A person who is willing to lead in serving this fellowship’s needs

II. 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

* These items express character traits which can be observed in a person’s life and are essential for godliness in leadership. They are not rigid laws, but reflective of a person’s spiritual growth and character.

Personal life

- vs. 8** “dignity” – worthy of respect, serious minded; *level headed, solid, steady
- vs. 8** “not double-tongued” – not deceitful, not a liar; *sincere, truthful
- vs. 8** “not . . . addicted to much wine” – not given to excess; *temperate
- vs. 8** “not . . . fond of sordid gain” – not greedy, not a money-grubber, not dishonest; *honest in business, and not money hungry

Religious life

- vs. 9** “Holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience” – wholehearted commitment to the faith, understanding God’s truth; *sound in doctrine and behavior
- vs.10** “be tested . . . beyond reproach” – proved, examined; *proven, stable person in his life-style

Women deacons

- vs. 11** The qualifications for women in this verse are merely a summary of vs. 8-10. This verse simply says, “What goes for the men goes for the women.”
- vs. 11** “dignified” – *worthy of respect, level-headed (see v.8 “dignity”)
- vs. 11** “not malicious gossips” – *sincere and truthful (see v.8 “not double-tongued”)
- vs. 11** “temperate” – *moderation, self-restraint (see v.8 “not addicted to much wine”)
- vs. 11** “faithful” – *proven stable in their life-style (see v.9 and v.10 “sound in doctrine/behavior”)

Family life

- vs. 12** “husbands of only one wife” – literally “a one woman kind of man”; *faithful in marriage
- vs. 12** “good managers of their children and their own households” – managing their children and household well; *good spiritual managers and leaders in their home
- vs. 13** “For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.” – This verse is a good check-point for deacons who are already serving. Faithfulness to these qualities should produce: respect by God and people, boldness in sharing their faith, and confidence in God which inspires others to have confidence in them

“Neither be ye called masters; for one is your master, even Christ. But He that is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 23:10-11).

DEACON NOMINATIONS

You may nominate up to six people for consideration to serve as a deacon. Please make all nominations a matter of prayer, considering the biblical qualifications printed above. Please turn your nominations in by Sunday, September 22. (Only official voting members of Calvary may submit nominations.)

CALVARY'S DEACON MINISTRY MODEL

Our deacons are a group of godly people with a heart for God and for his body of believers. They are people willing to minister toward the goal of making Calvary a HEALTHY BODY and a BEAUTIFUL BRIDE for Jesus Christ. This model is a flexible guideline for deacon ministry based on Acts Chapter Six.

Acts 6:1-7 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith (NIV).

1. **A Meeter of Needs** (vs.1 and vs. 3)

The word “deacon” means “servant.” The office of deacon is a calling to work to meet practical needs in the church family. They stay attuned to the church family and serve to meet practical needs in order to promote the ministry of the Word and prayer and the overall health of church life.

2. **A Minister to the Pastors** (vs. 2-4, 6-7)

Deacons assist the pastors and elders by relieving them of the many distractions, demands, and pressures of the church family. Deacons stand ready to assist the pastors and elders in any “service” that would support and promote the ministry of the Word and prayer, and visionary oversight of the church as assigned to them by the Lord.

3. **A Maintainer of Unity** (vs. 1 and vs. 5)

In Acts Chapter Six, we see that a practical need was being overlooked that resulted in complaining among some of the church members. The deacons were charged with meeting the practical need, restoring harmony to the church family, and partnering with the pastors and elders by assisting them as described above.

4. **A Model of Christlikeness** (vs. 3)

The men chosen for the office of deacon were described as “full of the Spirit and wisdom,” “full of faith and the Holy Spirit,” and they were willing to have “this responsibility” turned over to them. Against the backdrop of the New Testament, a deacon is simply a shining example of what every Christian is meant to be and to do. So, deacons serve as models of Christlikeness to the church.