*SERMON NOTES*

*High Calling, High Character: The Crucial Role of the Deacon Ministry in the Church: Part 2*

**1 Timothy 3: 8 – 13**

**Deacons are to have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mindset- that is, they are to keep the church focused on its mission by spotting and meeting tangible needs and promoting church unity.**

**The main two ditches that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can veer toward is (1) the good of becoming consumed with meeting practical and tangible ministry needs at the expense of the gospel and (2) the bad of turning inward and being consumed with conflict in fighting, tension, and complaint.**

**Deacons are to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, shock absorbers, and conflict resolvers in the church.**

**The Bible does not get really specific on what serving and unifying looks like for those who are deacons. But what the Bible does get really specific on is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and the type of men who are to be selected by the congregation to serve in this ministry.**

**More important than what deacons do is who deacons \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The godly character of those who serve as deacons is the most vital and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thing that should be considered when evaluating them for the service of deacon.**

**In verses 8 through 13 Paul lists for us the qualifications, prerequisites, and the conditions upon which those appointed to this noble and gospel advancing task of deacon must be: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and living towards in their lives.**

**What we see here is in no way to say that these men must be perfect and without sin in their lives – that’s not the bar. Rather it means that they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in their pursuit of God, holiness, and living pleasing to Him.**

**Those who serve as deacons are to be thought of well by others because of their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of life in the church and outside of the church.**

**Part of being dignified shows itself in how one controls their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**A double-tongued person is someone who hypocritically does not control their tongue. A deacon must not be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The kind of men who serve as deacons are “not addicted to much wine”, particularly in view here is the sin of over consumption of alcohol but also present is the idea that this man is not out of control in his conduct in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ area of his life.**

**Deacons model for the congregation what it looks like to fight and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with sin - daily walking in the Savior’s power - that sin may gain no foothold in their life.**

**Those who serve as deacons are not to be “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for dishonest gain.”**

**The Bible makes clear that those who are double-tongued, ruled by drives and passions, and greedy for / with money are not the correct candidates for the worthy and honorable service of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Deacons must hold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience, that is, they need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel and they must be aiming to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out the gospel practically in their lives.**

**Deacons have to be captive by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, held by it and holding to it.**

**Deacons must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the gospel because one of the great schemes of the devil is to constantly loosen our grips on the gospel as individuals and as a local church.**

**To hold fast to the gospel with a clear conscience is not perfection and sinlessness but rather striving for faithfulness every moment by seeking to die to self and live for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**So serious is the role and ministry of the deacon that it cannot be rushed over or made with hasty decision: these men are to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ first.**

**It i*s* not only important who a deacon is – but also critical what kind of person their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are.**

**The dignity of a deacon’s wives is seen most notably in the way they control their tongues and that they are “not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

**The wives of deacons are to be sober minded, sober thinkers: they are not ruled controlled by emotions and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by them.**

**A deacon’s wife is to be faithful (not perfect) in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things.**

**Faithfulness in the life of a deacon begins with, not extends to, his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**A deacon must manage his children and household well. He is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_his family as the spiritual head of his home.**

**Being a deacon is not always glamorous work but the reward for doing so faithfully is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Blanks: missional; church; peacemakers; character; are; essential; pursuing; faithful; conduct; tongue; double-tongued; any; contend; greedy; deacon; know & live; gospel; hold on; God; tested; wives; slanderers; ruled; all; family; lead; glorious;

Congregational Scripture Reading – 1 Timothy 3: 14 -16

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that,if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

Hewas manifested in the flesh,

vindicatedby the Spirit, seen by angels,

 proclaimed among the nations,

believed on in the world, taken up in glory”.