



#### IDEALS FOR SERVICE AS A DEACON:

1. He shall be at least 25 years of age.
2. He shall have been a member of the local church at least two (2) years.
3. He should be a faithful and loyal supporter of the entire church program and he should be regular in his attendance to the main worship services of the church, morning and evening worship services and mid-week prayer service unless prevented by age, illness, infirmity or other matters beyond his control. He should be thoroughly in sympathy with and supportive of the missionary program of the church and denomination.
4. He should be a tither in belief and practice.
5. He should be able to regularly attend the monthly meetings of the deacons.
6. His social and moral standards should be above question and he should so conduct himself as to never cause embarrassment to the church and the cause of Christ, which we seek to promote, and be in keeping with Acts 6:3, "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" and I Timothy 3:8-13, "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre, holding the mystery of the faith in pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanders, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."
7. His spiritual standards should be in keeping with I Timothy 3:9, "Holding the mystery of the faith in pure conscience" and Acts 6:3, "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."
8. His life and conduct at all times should be the type that will bring honor to the name and cause of Christ and a credit to the church, in short, his life should be a worthy example before the church and community.
9. He should at all times seek to support the work of the ministry in keeping with Acts 6:1-4, "And in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said it is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

## SCRIPTURAL QUALIFICATIONS of a DEACON

No man shall seek the office of deacon, either through his own speech and activities or that of his family or friends. The Bible direction is that the office should seek the man. Such activity known in the church, shall in the opinion of the church serve to disqualify for election. Acts 6:3 “Look ye out among you.....”

No man shall be considered for election even upon nomination, as deacon, who had not prior to nomination, been active in all phases of church life open to men unless providentially hindered. Men who are nominated shall be those who cooperate and help in the whole program of the church. I Timothy 3:10, “And let these also first be approved.”

Deacons should be men of good report both in the church and community.

Acts 6:3, “.....honest report...”

I Timothy 3:8, “Likewise must the deacons be grave.”

Deacons should be men who are filled with the Spirit of God and whose life and actions are motivated by Him.

Acts 6:3, “.....men full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.”

Deacons should be men whose conversation is above reproach. They are to be truthful and consistent, honest in speech, men of character, whose word becomes a bond.

I Timothy 3:8, “...must be grave, not double-tongued...”

Deacons should be men who are sober. Every Baptist enters into a “Church Covenant” which requires the abstinence from both sale and use of alcoholic beverages. I Timothy 3:3, “.....not given too much wine..”

Deacons should be men who are possessed with a degree of wisdom that will enable them to be sound thinkers, act wisely and discreetly on church affairs. Acts 6:3, “....full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.”

Deacons should be men who tithe. It is hard to conceive how a person will be a good steward of the business affairs of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ if he is not a good steward with his own financial obligations to God. God’s Word teaches us that the tithe is the Lord’s.

I Timothy 3:8, “Likewise must the deacons be not greedy of filthy lucre.”

Deacons should be men who hold the revealed truth of Christianity in pure conscience. Orthodoxy without general holiness is of little worth. I Timothy 3:9, “...hold the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.”

Deacons should be men who have first been proven worthy of the office. It is unwise to place spiritually immature men in this high office. A deacon should have proven his desire for spiritual maturity by enlisting in every organization of the church which minister to his needs, and should support all the regular services of worship. I Timothy 3:10, “And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.”

Deacons shall be husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their houses well.

I Timothy 3:12.

Wives of deacons are obligated to meet scriptural qualifications also. They are to be consecrated Christians.

They are to guard their tongues, should be women of good temperament and their personal habits should becometh godliness.

I Timothy 3:11, “Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.”