
'Who Serves the Church'
Part 4 of a 4-part series on the church

Who Serves the Church?

We all do - but certain men serve in a certain way with certain qualifiers

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." **1 Peter 4:10**

The character of the deacon is identified by the church

⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well... ¹⁴I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God. **1 Timothy 3:8-12, 14-15**

A) The character of the deacon is identified by the church

1. He's respectable and respectful v8a
2. He's controlled (*self*) and content v8b
3. He's a reflector on truth and refined by testing v9-10
4. He's a devoted family man overseeing them well v11-12

The calling of the deacon is confirmed by the church

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said: It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose... ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. **Acts 6:1-5a, 6**

Jesus is the Ultimate Servant

⁴²Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant (*diakonai*), ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve (*diakonai*), and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Mark 10:42-45**