

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at
Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
Phil. 1:1

DEACONS

Identity &
Work

DEACONS

SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH

“*diakonos*”

Strong's – “to be an attendant, i.e., wait upon, to minister, to serve.” – “to run errands as an attendant or waiter.”

Thayer – “one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master; a servant, attendant, minister; one through whom the welfare and prosperity of another is carried out.”



Deacons Work & Identity

“*diakonos*”

Arndt and Gingrich – “a servant of someone a helper; to wait on someone at table; to care for, to help or support.”

Vine – “The word is probably connected with the verb *dioko* meaning to hasten after, pursue (perhaps originally said of a runner). It is distinguished from *doulos*, a bondservant, in that *diakonos* views a servant in relationship to his work while *doulos* views him in relationship to his master.



Deacons Work & Identity

“*diakonos*” What do we learn from the definitions?

- A deacon must be willing to serve others. Mark 9:33-35

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and **servant** of all.”



Deacons Work & Identity

***“diakonos”* What do we learn from the definitions?**

- A deacon must be willing to serve others. Mark 9:33-35
- Must have a heart like Paul. 2 Cor. 12:15

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.



Deacons Work & Identity

***“diakonos”* What do we learn from the definitions?**

- A deacon must be willing to serve others. Mark 9:33-35
- Must have a heart like Paul. 2 Cor. 12:15
- Not a heart like Martha. Luke 10:40

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

Deacons Work & Identity

“*diakonos*”

- ❖ Word used in reference to many others.
- ❖ Jesus – Rom. 15:8
- ❖ The Apostles. 2 Cor. 3:6
- ❖ All Christians. John 12:26
- ❖ Civil authorities. Rom. 13:4
- ❖ Satan has “deacons”. 2 Cor. 11:15



Deacons Work & Identity

Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. Likewise, *their* wives *must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.



1 Tim. 3:8-13

“*diakonos*”

❖ Acts 6:1-4

Now 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. And 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. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”



Deacons Work & Identity

“*diakonos*”

- ❖ Acts 6:1-4
- ❖ Word “distribution” v.1 & “serve” v.2 from the same root word “*diakonos*”.
- ❖ Translated deacon Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3
- ❖ Being appointed to one task.
- ❖ Not being appointed to the office of deacon.



Deacons Work & Identity

NT Speaks of The “office” of Deacon

For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

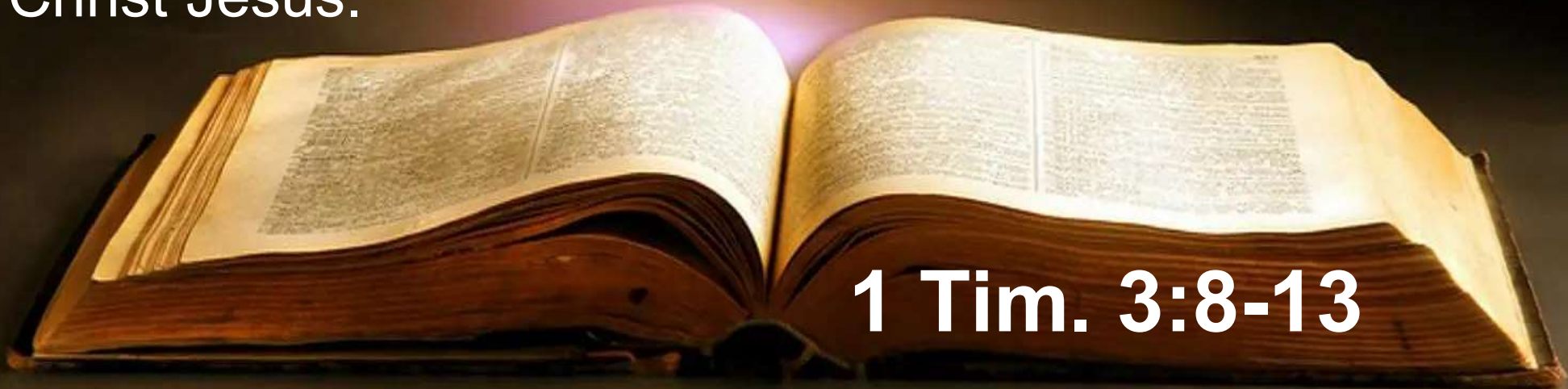
1 Tim. 3:13

- ❖ More of a work than an office.
- ❖ Deacons are to be working, serving, active men.
- ❖ Serve under the direction of the elders.
Heb. 13:7, 17
- ❖ Deacons serve.



Deacons Work & Identity

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