

# Elders & Deacons

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## **Four Lessons From God's Word:**

Overview: Elders and Deacons  
Designations & Work of Elders  
Qualifications of Elders  
Qualifications & Work of Deacons

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## Introduction

God's word is perfect, but men are fallible. If you find any errors in these lessons or have suggestions to improve them, please contact me at [allan@biblestudyguide.org](mailto:allan@biblestudyguide.org).

This series of lessons is in workbook form. You will need a good Bible dictionary to answer some of the questions. Bible dictionaries are available online (see [BibleStudyGuide.org](http://BibleStudyGuide.org)) or for purchase at any good Bible bookstore.

The result of searching the Scriptures and filling in this workbook, is an outline of God's teaching on elders and deacons.

In some lessons, I utilize a translation key (see below). For example, in Lesson Three, you will define *blameless*<sup>1,2</sup>, *above reproach*<sup>3,4,5</sup> (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6, 7). The translation key identifies that this qualification of an elder reads *blameless* in the NKJV (New King James Version) and KJV (King James Version, Authorized). And it reads *above reproach* in the NASB (New American Standard Bible), NIV (New International Version), and NRSV (New Revised Standard Version).

Translation Key: NKJV<sup>1</sup>, KJV<sup>2</sup>, NASB<sup>3</sup>, NIV<sup>4</sup>, NRSV<sup>5</sup>

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# Overview: Elders and Deacons

## A. The need for elders and deacons

1. Why do churches need elders and deacons?
  - a. Acts 20:28-31:
  - b. 1 Tim. 3:5:
  - c. 1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Th. 5:12:
  - d. Tit. 1:7:
  - e. Heb. 13:17:
  - f. 1 Pet. 5:2-3:
  
2. What type of work is shepherding the flock of God (1 Tim. 3:1)?
  - a. What should our attitude be toward an elder's work?
  - b. What should a man's attitude be toward desiring the work?
  - c. Should a man who does not have this attitude about the work be appointed an elder? Why?
  
3. Should each local church have elders (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5)? Why?
  - a. Why should a church not have elders?
  - b. Why might a church have qualified men that have not been ordained elders?
    1. When may this not be a sin?
    2. When may this be a sin?
      - a. What should be done in this case?

4. Is something lacking when a church is not governed by elders (Tit. 1:5)?
  - a. What is lacking?
  
5. What should a church do if there are no men qualified to be elders?
  - a. What should a church not do?
  
6. Is it easier to do the Lord's work with or without elders and deacons? Why?
  - a. What are some benefits of a local church being organized with qualified elders and deacons?
  
  - b. What are some disadvantages of a local church being organized with qualified elders and deacons?

## **B. Some things that hinder the appointment of elders**

1. List common hindrances in the ordination of elders and deacons that should be avoided.
  
2. How can these hindrances be avoided?
  
3. What may result if these hindrances are not avoided?

## **C. Overview of the qualifications**

1. List the qualifications of elders (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:6-9).
  
2. What is the general character of a man qualified to be an elder (we will define each quality in a later lesson)?
  
3. List the qualifications of deacons (1 Tim. 3:8-13).

4. What is the general character of a man qualified to be a deacon (we will define each quality in a later lesson)?

#### **D. Review**

1. Why do churches need elders and deacons?
2. What hinders the appointment of elders?
3. How can we avoid common hindrances of appointing elders and deacons?
4. What is the general character of a man who is qualified to be an elder or a deacon?

Translation Key: NKJV<sup>1</sup>, KJV<sup>2</sup>, NASB<sup>3</sup>, NIV<sup>4</sup>, NRSV<sup>5</sup>

# Designations and Work of Elders

There are three Greek words translated into six English words which designate the men who hold the office of overseer in the church.

Greek Words	English Words
<i>presbuteros</i>	elder presbyter
<i>episkopos</i>	bishop overseer
<i>poimēn</i>	pastor shepherd

**A. Definitions:** Give the part of speech (e.g., noun, verb) and site Scriptures to define the word in context.

1. Define *elder, presbyter* (Greek, *presbuteros*):
  - a. The noun form of *presbuteros* is *presbuterion* and appears in Lk. 22:66; Acts 22:5; 1 Tim. 4:14. What is the relationship between the two words?
2. Define *bishop, overseer* (Greek, *episkopos*):
3. Define *pastor, shepherd* (Greek, *poimēn*):

**B. Elder, Presbyter (*presbuteros*):**

1. What four ways are the term *elder* applied in Scripture:
  - a. Matt. 15:2:
  - b. Lk. 15:25; Acts 2:17; 1 Tim. 5:1-2:
  - c. Acts 14:23; Ja. 5:14:
  - d. Rev. 4:4-10:

2. What is the difference between an "elder" (1 Tim. 5:1, 2; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5; 2 Jn. 1), an "aged man" (Lk. 1:18; Tit. 2:2; Ph'm. 9), and an "aged woman" (Tit. 2:3)?
3. How old must a man be to be considered an elder (cf. Lk. 15:25)?
4. How old must a man be to be considered old enough to be an elder in the church?
  - a. Could Timothy have been an elder while in Ephesus (1 Tim. 4:12)? Why?

### **C. Bishop, Overseer (*episkopos*):**

1. What does this word mean in relationship to an elder's work?
2. What does the Scriptures say that elders oversee (1 Pet. 5:2)?
3. What authority do bishops have in the church (1 Tim. 3:5; Heb. 13:17)?
4. What, in the church, is not under the authority of the bishops?

### **D. Pastor, Shepherd (*poimen*)**

1. Who is the chief shepherd (Jn. 10:1f; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4)?
2. What does *pastor* mean in relationship to an elder's work?
3. What does the Scriptures say that elders shepherd (Acts 20:28)?
4. How does the word *pastor* describe an elder's authority in the church (1 Pet. 5:1-4)?
  - a. How is this related to a shepherd of sheep?

5. What, in the church, is not under the authority of the pastors?

## **E. Selecting and ordaining elders**

1. What example do we have, in the Bible, of selecting church leaders (Acts 6:1-6)?
  - a. Should we select elders by the same method? Why?
2. Do we have a command or example for the method of appointing elders (Acts 14:23; 20:28; Tit. 1:5)?
  - a. Write out a Scriptural method of selecting and appointing elders.
3. How many elders were ordained in every church (Tit. 1:5)?
  - a. How many men hold the office of overseer in every church? Why?
4. How is the word "pastor" misused in denominations today?
  - a. What is the difference between pastors in the Bible and men who erroneously wear the name today?

## **F. An elder's work and responsibilities**

1. How do the names associated with an elder describe his work?
  - a. Bishop, Overseer:
  - b. Shepherd, Pastor:
2. What work of an elder is described in Titus 1:9?
  - a. Why is this part of an elder's work (Tit. 1:10-16)?
3. For what is an elder responsible (Heb. 13:17)?

4. Paul and Barnabas delivered the relief from Antioch to the elders (Acts 11:27-30). What does this tell us about an elder's work and responsibilities?

## G. Christians' responsibility to elders

1. 1 Th. 5:12-13:
  
2. 1 Tim. 5:17-18:
  
3. 1 Tim. 5:19-20:
  
4. Heb. 13:7, 17:
  
5. Ja. 5:14-16 (cf. Gal. 6:1-2):

## G. Review

1. What words are used, in the Bible, to designate men holding the office of overseer?
  - a. Do they all six apply to the same man?
  
2. Give a short definition for:
  - a. elder:
  
  - b. bishop:
  
  - c. pastor:
  
3. Why are overseers called *elders*?
  
4. Why are overseers called *bishops*?

5. Why are overseers called *pastors*?
  
6. How many men occupy the office of overseer in a single church?
  - a. What is the limit of an overseer's authority?
  
7. What is a Christian's responsibility to the elders?

Translation Key: NKJV<sup>1</sup>, KJV<sup>2</sup>, NASB<sup>3</sup>, NIV<sup>4</sup>, NRSV<sup>5</sup>

# Qualifications of Elders

## 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9

The qualifications of elders have been topically grouped in numerous ways. But, it is important that we study the qualifications as they were grouped by the apostles so that we fully understand the reason for the qualifications in addition to the qualifications themselves.

Note the chart on the next page. Since Paul's epistle to Timothy has more information than the one to Titus, the grouping favors First Timothy. The qualifications in Timothy and Titus that are grouped together in the chart may not be synonymous but only related to one another. Also note that some of the qualities are positive and some are negative.

The qualities that a man must possess to be an elder are qualities that all Christians must strive to possess.

### A. Desire (1 Tim. 3:1)

1. Must a man desire the office of a bishop before being considered qualified to become a bishop?
2. What might happen if men not desiring the office of a bishop were appointed elders?
  - a. Why might men rightly desire the office of a bishop?
  - b. Why might men wrongly desire the office of a bishop?
  - c. Why might men not desire the office of a bishop?
3. What kind of work does a man desire if he desires the office of a bishop?

### B. Blameless (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6, 7)

1. Which of the qualifications of an elder must be met for a man to be blameless?
2. Define *blameless*<sup>1,2</sup>, *above reproach*<sup>3,4,5</sup>:

<b>1 Timothy 3:1-7</b>	<b>Titus 1:6-9</b>
<b>Desire:</b>	
desires the office	
<b>Blameless:</b>	<b>Blameless:</b>
must be blameless	must be blameless as a steward of God
husband of one wife	husband of one wife
temperate	not self-willed not quick-tempered self-controlled
sober-minded	sober-minded
of good behavior	lover of what is good
hospitable	hospitable
able to teach	holding fast the faithful word
not given to wine	not give to wine
not violent	not violent
not greedy for money	not greedy for money
gentle	
not quarrelsome	
not covetous	
	just
	holy
<b>Track record as a good spiritual leader:</b>	<b>Track record as a good spiritual leader:</b>
rules his own house well	
children in submission with all reverence	faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination
<b>Experienced, not susceptible to pride:</b>	
not a novice	
<b>Moreover, a good reputation among unbelievers:</b>	
have a good testimony among those who are outside	

3. Is a blameless man sinless? Is he a man who is perfect and does not make mistakes?
  - a. What type of man is blameless?
4. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (1 Cor. 1:8; Phil. 2:15; 1 Th. 5:23; 2 Pet. 3:14)?
5. Why must an elder be blameless to properly discharge his duties?

### **C. Husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6)**

1. Define *husband of one wife*:
2. Does this exclude men who have never been married? Why?
3. If a man was an elder and his wife died, should he step down from the office of bishop? Why?
4. If a man were an elder and lawfully divorced his wife, should he step down from the office of bishop? Why?
5. If a man had lawfully divorced his wife and lawfully remarried, could he be a qualified elder? Why?
6. Is this a characteristic that all Christian men should possess (Matt. 5:31-32; 19:1-9; Mk. 10:2-12; Lk. 16:18; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:10-16) in their marriages?
7. Why must an elder be the husband of one wife to properly discharge his duties?

## D. Temperate - not self-willed, not quick-tempered, self-controlled (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:7-8)

1. Define:
  - a. *temperate*<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>, *vigilant*<sup>2</sup>:
  - b. *not self-willed*<sup>1,2,3</sup>, *not overbearing*<sup>4</sup>, *must not be arrogant*<sup>5</sup>:
  - c. *not quick-tempered*<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>, *not soon angry*<sup>2</sup>:
  - d. *self-controlled*<sup>1,3,5</sup>, *temperate*<sup>2</sup>, *disciplined*<sup>4</sup>:
2. What is the relationship of these characteristics?
3. Does this mean that a man qualified to be an elder **never** gets angry (cf. Ps. 4:4; Eph. 4:26)?
4. Are these characteristics that all Christians should have (Acts 24:25; Gal. 5:23; Tit. 2:2; Ja. 1:19-20; 2 Pet. 1:6; 2:10)?
5. Why must an elder be temperate to properly discharge his duties?

## E. Sober-minded (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8)

1. Define *sober-minded*<sup>1</sup>, *sober*<sup>2</sup>, *prudent*<sup>3</sup>, *self-controlled*<sup>4</sup>, *sensible*<sup>5</sup>:
2. Is a sober-minded man easily swayed by others (Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 2:4-23)?
3. Does a sober-minded man make sober decisions?
4. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Rom. 12:3; 1 Th. 5:6, 8; Tit. 2:2, 4, 6; 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8)?

5. Why must an elder be sober-minded to properly discharge his duties?

## **F. Good behavior - lover of good (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8)**

1. Define *good behavior*<sup>1,2</sup>, *respectable*<sup>3, 4, 5</sup>:
2. Define *lover of good*<sup>1</sup>, *lover of good men*<sup>2</sup>, *loving what is good*<sup>3</sup>, *loves what is good*<sup>4</sup>, *lover of goodness*<sup>5</sup>:
3. What is the difference between these two characteristics?
4. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Rom. 12:2, 9, 21; 13:3; 16:19; 2 Cor. 9:8; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:10; 6:7; Col. 1:10; 1 Th. 5:15, 21; 2 Th. 2:17; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 2:10; 6:18; 2 Tim. 2:21; Tit. 2:7; 3:1, 8, 14; Heb. 5:14; 13:16, 21; Ja. 3:17; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:13; 3 Jn. 11)?
5. Why must an elder be of good behavior and a lover of good to properly discharge his duties?

## **G. Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8)**

1. Define *hospitable*<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>, *given to hospitality*<sup>2</sup>:
2. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:1-3; 1 Pet. 4:9)?
3. Why must an elder be hospitable to properly discharge his duties?

## **H. Able to teach - holding fast the faithful word (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9)**

1. Define *able to teach*<sup>1,3,4</sup>, *apt to teach*<sup>2</sup>, *an apt teacher*<sup>5</sup> (1 Tim. 3:2):

2. Define *holding fast the faithful word*<sup>1,2,3</sup>, *must hold firmly to the trustworthy message*<sup>4</sup>, *must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy*<sup>5</sup> (Tit. 1:9):
3. Should all Christians have these characteristics (Phil. 2:16; Col. 2:19; 3:16; Ja. 1:21f)?
4. Why must an elder be able to teach to properly discharge his duties (Tit. 1:9-16)?

### I. Not given to wine (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7)

1. Define *not given to wine*<sup>1,2</sup>, *not addicted to wine*<sup>3</sup>, *not given to drunkenness*<sup>4</sup>, *not a drunkard*<sup>5</sup>:
2. Does this mean that a man qualified to be an elder could have never drunk wine?
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Eph. 5:18; 1 Cor. 5:11; 1 Cor. 6:10; 1 Cor. 11:21)?
4. Why must an elder not be given to wine to properly discharge his duties?

### J. Not violent (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7)

1. Define *not violent*<sup>1,4,5</sup>, *no striker*<sup>2</sup>, *not . . . pugnacious*<sup>3</sup>:
2. Give some examples of violence which should not be a characteristic of a man who is qualified to be an elder.
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Pr. 16:29; Lk. 3:14; Ec. 5:8)?
4. Why must an elder not be violent to properly discharge his duties?

**K. Not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7)**

1. Define *not greedy for money*<sup>1</sup>, *not greed for filthy lucre*<sup>2</sup> *not fond of sordid gain*<sup>3</sup>, *not pursuing dishonest gain*<sup>4</sup>, *not . . . greedy for gain*<sup>5</sup>:
  - a. Note: this phrase does not appear in the NASB, NIV, and NRSV in 1 Tim. 3:3.
2. What is the relationship between this characteristic and covetousness?
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should not have (Eph. 4:19; 1 Tim. 6:6-19)?
4. Why must an elder not be greedy for money to properly discharge his duties?

**L. Gentle (1 Tim. 3:3)**

1. Define *gentle*<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>, *patient*<sup>2</sup>:
2. What is the relationship between being gentle and being temperate?
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Gal. 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:24; Tit. 3:2; Ja. 3:17; 1 Pet. 2:18)?
4. Why must an elder be gentle to properly discharge his duties?

**M. Not quarrelsome (1 Tim. 3:3)**

1. Define *not quarrelsome*<sup>1,4,5</sup>, *not a brawler*<sup>2</sup>, *uncontentious*<sup>3</sup>:
2. What is the relationship between gentle, temperate, and not quarrelsome?
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should not have (Tit. 3:2)?

4. Why must an elder not be quarrelsome to properly discharge his duties?

## **N. Not covetous (1 Tim. 3:3)**

1. Define *not covetous*<sup>1,2</sup>, *free from the love of money*<sup>3</sup>, *not a lover of money*<sup>4,5</sup>:
2. What is the relationship between not being greedy for money and not being covetous?
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should not have (1 Cor. 5:10-11; Eph. 5:3, 5; Col. 3:5; 2 Tim. 3:2; Heb. 13:5)?
4. Why must an elder not be covetous to properly discharge his duties?

## **O. Just (Tit. 1:8)**

1. Define *just*<sup>1,2,3</sup>, *upright*<sup>4,5</sup>:
2. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 10:38; 12:23)?
3. Why must an elder be just to properly discharge his duties?

## **P. Holy (Tit. 1:8)**

1. Define *holy*<sup>1,2,4</sup>, *devout*<sup>3,5</sup>:
2. What is the relationship between holy and just?
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Rom. 12:1; Eph. 1:4; Col. 1:22; 3:12; Heb. 3:1; 1 Pet. 1:16; 2:9; Rev. 20:6)?

4. Why must an elder be holy to properly discharge his duties?

### Q. Track record as a spiritual leader (1 Tim. 3:4-5; Tit. 1:6)

1. Define *rules his own house well*<sup>1,2</sup>, *manages his own household well*<sup>3,5</sup>, *manage his own family well*<sup>4</sup> (1 Tim. 3:4):
  
2. Define *children in submission with all reverence*<sup>1,2</sup>, *keeping his own children in control with all dignity*<sup>3</sup>, *see that his children obey him with proper respect*<sup>4</sup>, *keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way*<sup>5</sup> (1 Tim. 3:4):
  
3. Define *faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination*<sup>1</sup>, *faithful children not accused of riot or unruly*<sup>2</sup>, *having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion*<sup>3</sup>, *whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient*<sup>4</sup>, *whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious*<sup>5</sup> (Tit.1:6):

Note: Children who are faithful (believe) are children who are Christians. They are faithful to God.

4. Should this be the qualities of every Christian man's home (Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-21)?
  - a. Why may it not be?
  - b. What qualities are revealed by a man's home?
  
5. Why must a man have ruled his house well to be qualified to be an elder?
  
6. Why must a man be ruling his house well to properly discharge his duties as an elder?
  
7. Does this mean:
  - a. that a man **must** have a faithful Christian wife? Why?
  - b. that a man **must** have children? Why?
  - c. that a man's children **must** be faithful Christians? Why?

1. How many children must a man have to be qualified? Why?
  - a. Note: Elders are referred to in the singular tense (e.g., a man, bishop, etc.) and his children are referred to in the plural. Hence, we conclude that a man (singular) must have a plurality of faithful children to be qualified to become an elder.
2. Must all of a man's children be faithful Christians? Why?
3. Does it matter if a man's children are grown and that they have moved away from home? Why?
4. If an elder has a faithful child who back slides into perdition, should he step down? Why?

#### **R. Experienced, not susceptible to pride (1 Tim. 3:6)**

1. Define *not a novice*<sup>1,2</sup>, *not a new convert*<sup>3</sup>, *must not be a recent convert*<sup>4,5</sup>:
2. Who is a novice and who is not a novice?
3. What danger is a novice in, if he were appointed to be an elder?
4. Should all Christians work to not be a novice (Heb. 5:12)?
  - a. What does it say about a man if he has been a novice for a long time?
5. Why must an elder not be a novice to properly discharge his duties?

#### **S. Moreover, a good reputation among unbelievers (1 Tim. 3:7)**

1. Define *a good reputation*<sup>1,3,4</sup>, *a good report*<sup>2</sup>, *be well thought of*<sup>5</sup>:
2. Are all of the qualities listed thus far necessary to have a good reputation?

3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Pr. 22:1; Matt. 5:13-16; Col. 4:5-6)?
4. Why must an elder have a good reputation among believers to properly discharge his duties?

## T. Review

1. What are the five major categories of qualifications for elders that we noted in this lesson?
2. Should each Christian have (or be striving for) these qualifications?
3. Why must an elder have these qualities to properly discharge his duties?
4. Give a brief statement regarding the type of man who is qualified to serve as an elder.

Translation Key: NKJV<sup>1</sup>, KJV<sup>2</sup>, NASB<sup>3</sup>, NIV<sup>4</sup>, NRSV<sup>5</sup>

# Qualifications and Work of Deacons

## 1 Timothy 3:8-13

The office of deacon is an important work in the church. Deacons are distinguished from elders and other members of the congregation (1 Tim. 3:10, 13; Phil. 1:1).

The qualifications of elders and deacons are very similar (note the chart on the next page). Both elders and deacons are men of the highest moral character. Elders are men who are additionally equipped for spiritual oversight. Deacons may be younger than elders and are qualified as trustworthy men to capably serve over the affairs of the church.

### A. Deacon

1. Define *deacon*:
  - a. Can the word “deacon” be used of any servant of God (cf. Matt. 20:26; Rom. 16:1; 1 Cor. 3:5)?
  - b. In this sense, are we all deacons (servants)?
2. What is the difference between a servant (deacon) and a man who holds the church office of deacon?
3. Were the men appointed over the daily distribution of food, deacons (Acts 6:1-6)?
  - a. Were they appointed to a church office?

### B. Likewise (1 Tim. 3:8)

1. What does *likewise* mean concerning the qualifications of deacons (see chart, next page)?
2. Would a man who was qualified to be an elder also be qualified to be a deacon? Why?
3. Does a man have to be proved before serving as a deacon (1 Tim. 3:10)?
  - a. Does a bishop likewise have to be proved before being ordained an elder?

<b>Elders 1 Timothy 3:1-7</b>	<b>Deacons 1 Timothy 3:8-13</b>
<b>Desire:</b>	
desires the office	
<b>Blameless:</b>	<b>Likewise, first proved:</b>
must be blameless	blameless
husband of one wife	husband of one wife
temperate	reverent
sober-minded	not double-tongued
of good behavior	
hospitable	
able to teach	holding the mystery of faith with a pure conscience
not given to wine	not given to much wine
not violent	
not greedy for money	not greedy for money
gentle	
not quarrelsome	
not covetous	
<b>Track record as a good spiritual leader:</b>	
rules his own house well	ruling their children and houses well
children in submission with all reverence	wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things
<b>Experienced, not susceptible to pride:</b>	
not a novice	
<b>Moreover, a good reputation among unbelievers:</b>	
have a good testimony among those who are outside	

4. What does a man have to be proved to be, before he can serve as a deacon (1 Tim. 3:10)
  - a. Define *blameless*<sup>1,2,5</sup>, *beyond reproach*<sup>3</sup>, *nothing against them*<sup>4</sup> (1 Tim. 3:10):

### C. Reverent (1 Tim. 3:8)

1. Define *reverent*<sup>1</sup>, *grave*<sup>2</sup>, *men of dignity*<sup>3</sup>, *men worth of respect*<sup>4</sup>, *serious*<sup>5</sup>:
2. Must a man's wife be reverent for him to qualify as a deacon (1 Tim. 3:11)?
3. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (1 Tim. 3:11; Tit. 2:2)?
4. Why must a deacon be reverent to properly discharge his duties?
5. Why must a man's wife be reverent for him to be qualified and to discharge his duties (1 Tim. 3:11)?

### D. Not double-tongued (1 Tim. 3:8)

1. Define *not double tongued*<sup>1,2,3,5</sup>, *sincere*<sup>4</sup>:
2. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (Matt. 5:37; Eph. 4:29; Ja. 3:6-12)?
3. Why must a deacon not be double-tongued to properly discharge his duties?

### E. Not given to much wine (1 Tim. 3:8)

1. Define *not given to much wine*<sup>1,2</sup>, *not . . . addicted to much wine*<sup>3</sup>, *not indulging in much wine*<sup>4,5</sup>:
2. What is the difference between this qualification and the qualification for elders (*not given to wine*)?

3. Does this mean that deacons can be addicted to a little wine (see notes on elder's qualifications, Lesson Three)? Why?
4. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (see on elders, Lesson Three)?
5. Why must a deacon not be given to much wine to properly discharge his duties?

#### **F. Not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:8)**

1. Define *not greedy for money*<sup>1,5</sup>, *not greedy for filthy lucre*<sup>2</sup>, *not . . . fond of sordid gain*<sup>3</sup>, *not pursuing dishonest gain*<sup>4</sup>:
2. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have (see notes elders)?
3. Why must a deacon not be greedy for money to properly discharge his duties?

#### **G. Holding the mystery of faith with a pure conscience (1 Tim. 3:9)**

1. What does it mean, to hold the mystery of faith with a pure conscience (Rom. 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7; Eph. 3:1-21; Col. 1:24-29; 2:18-19; 2 Tim. 3:16-4:5; Jude 3)?
  - a. How does a Christian do this?
  - b. Why does his conscience have to be pure (Rom. 14:23; Ja. 4:17)?
2. Is this a characteristic that all Christians should have?
3. Why must a deacon be holding fast the mystery of faith with a pure conscience to properly discharge his duties?

## H. Track record of a good spiritual leader (1 Tim. 3:11-12)

1. a deacon's wife:
  - a. Define *reverent*<sup>1</sup>, *grave*<sup>2</sup>, *dignified*<sup>3</sup>, *worthy of respect*<sup>4</sup>, *serious*<sup>5</sup>:
  - b. Define *not slanderous*<sup>1,2,5</sup>, *not malicious gossips*<sup>3</sup>, *not malicious talkers*<sup>4</sup>:
  - c. Define *temperate*<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>, *sober*<sup>2</sup>:
  - d. Define *faithful in all things*<sup>1,2,3,5</sup>, *trustworthy in everything*<sup>4</sup>:
  - e. Are these characteristics that all Christians should have?
  - f. Why must a deacon's wife meet these qualifications so that he is qualified for the office and may properly discharge his duties?
  
2. A deacon's family:
  - a. What are the similarities and differences between an elder's family and a deacon's family?
    1. Must a deacon be married to a faithful Christian wife to be qualified? Why?
    2. Must a deacon have children to be qualified? Why?
    3. How many children must a deacon have to be qualified?
      - a. Note: Paul addresses *deacons* in the plural. *Wives* and *children* are also plural. Hence, we conclude a deacon must have one child to be qualified.
  - b. Should all Christian men strive to have families like this?
  - c. Why must a deacon have ruled his family well to properly discharge his duties?
    1. What is revealed about a man by looking at his track record in ruling over his family?

**I. Deacons who serve well (1 Tim. 3:13)**

1. What do deacons, who serve well, obtain?
  - a. What does this mean?
2. Should we all seek to have good standing and boldness in the faith? Why?

**J. Appointment of deacons**

1. What example of appointing deacons do we have in the Bible (Acts 6:1-6)?
2. What was the process of appointing deacons in Acts 6:1-6?
3. Should we follow this example (Acts 6:1-6) in appointing deacons? Why?
4. If there are elders, should the elders appoint deacons without involving the congregation? Why?

**K. Work of deacons**

1. What example of a deacon's work do we have in the Bible (Acts 6:1-6)?
2. What type of work would fall into the same category as the work in Acts 6:1-6)?
3. The church at Jerusalem had deacons at the time that Paul brought financial relief to Judea (Acts 6:1-6).
  - a. Why did Paul give the money to the elders and not to the deacons (Acts 11:27-30)?
  - b. What role might the deacons have had in distribution of the relief?
  - c. What might have been the working relationship between the elders and deacons in distributing the relief?

4. The apostles instructed the church to select deacons so that they would not have to leave the word of God and serve tables (Acts 6:2). What was the result (Acts 6:7)?
  - a. What will be the result today if a church is scripturally organized and governed?

## L. Review

1. What is a deacon?
  - a. How does the word "deacon" apply to every Christian?
  - b. How does the word "deacon" apply to only certain men?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the qualifications of elders and deacons?
  - a. If a man is qualified to be an elder, is he qualified to be a deacon? Why?
  - b. If a man is qualified to be a deacon, is he qualified to be an elder? Why?
3. What do deacons who serve well obtain?
4. How should deacons be appointed?
  - a. Can elders appoint and ordain elders without involving the congregation?
5. What is the work of deacons?
  - a. How is the work of deacons different from the work of elders?
  - b. What is the working relationship between elders and deacons? Give examples.

Translation Key: NKJV<sup>1</sup>, KJV<sup>2</sup>, NASB<sup>3</sup>, NIV<sup>4</sup>, NRSV<sup>5</sup>