

**1Tim 3:1-16**

**Diaconal ministry: whom shall we call?**

*The Diaconate is a spiritual office responsible for the ministry of mercy and stewardship of the congregation. It is neither a ruling nor a teaching office. Its exercise, like the whole life of the church, is under the oversight of the session and its function is administrative. (RPCNA Directory for Church Government, D-23)*

- I. The gospel brings order and unity into our lives.
  - A. Good order in the church glorifies God and foils the adversary.  
1 Corinthians 14:33; 1Cor 14:40; Colossians 2:5.
  - B. Christ said "to observe all things that I have commanded you..."  
Titus 1:5; Philippians 1:1.
  - C. Deacons provide orderly and united service for the needs of the saints and the poor.  
Management and mercy. Acts 6:2; 1Cor 9:14; 1Tim 5.
  - D. Diaconal works are not the sole responsibility of deacons, but the office is.  
1Cor 16:3-4; Romans 16:1-2; Matt 23:11.
  
- II. How to discern diaconal gifts in your brother or sister.
  - A. Qualifications for office.  
Acts 6:3; 1Tim 3:8-13.
  - B. Godly character and godly reputation for reliability.  
1Tim 3:8-9.
    1. "Reverent" or "men of dignity", "worthy of respect or honor, noble, serious."  
1Tim 2:2; 1Tim 3:4; Titus 2:2, 7; 1Tim 3:8.
    2. Deacons are to be honest and trustworthy.
    3. Deacons must be free of sinful desires that would corrupt them.
    4. Deacons, if married, are to be faithful family men, v. 12.  
1 Corinthians 7:8, 32-33.
  - C. Deacons may be male or female.  
Verse 11, the Greek literally says: *women likewise must be dignified*. See the NASV.  
Parallel structures, 1Tim 3:1-13: elders, deacons, women.  
Phoebe, Romans 12:1-2, "a deacon of the church," masculine term with feminine name in Greek.
  
- III. Selecting deacons and being selected.
  - A. A heart for serving the church.  
Romans 12:6-7.
  - B. A call to office.
  - C. Prayer for God's blessing on the process.  
1 Timothy 3:10
  - D. It is a blessing to be selected servant of the servants.  
1 Timothy 3:13 *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.*