

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Qualification of Deacon”

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Sermon Series Title: “The Office of Deacon”

Sermon Series Summary: We’ll be taking a couple weeks to look at the heart, call, and qualifications of Deacon as we prepare for Elections.

Setting: This is the first of Paul’s pastoral epistles in the New Testament. Paul is writing to his beloved disciple, Timothy, who was a young pastor of the growing and important Ephesian church. Paul writes this letter to instruct Timothy on leading this church, with an emphasis on warning against false teachers.

Summary: By the time Paul is writing this letter, the office of Deacon has been established in the church. He lays out qualifications for men who should hold this office. They need to live with integrity and good repute among the people. They must know and live out the gospel. They are called to their families first and will receive the promise of good standing and great confidence in the faith. The only hope for these qualifications is Christ.

Main Point: *“Christ is the perfectly qualified Deacon who has saved and restored unqualified sinners like us.”*

Sermon Points:

1. Why?
2. What?
3. How?

Opening Question

1. What would you do or how would you react if you encountered an unqualified officer or an officer in blatant sin?

(Answers may vary.)

Because Paul is instructing young Timothy in pastoring the Ephesian church, he lays out the qualifications of the office of Elder and Deacon in this letter. He wants Timothy and the Church to install qualified officers. But these qualifications aren’t just for officers. They should be the goal of every Christian.

Community Group Discussion Questions

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

2. Are there any qualifications in this list that seem unreasonable to you? Why or why not?

(Answers may vary.)

3. Which qualification do you struggle with the most? Why?

(Answers may vary.)

4. What do these qualifications teach us about the heart of God?

(They show us the holiness and the character of God. He is not double-tongued. He is truthful, never inconsistent, and He follows through on His promises. He is sober-minded, self-controlled in His wisdom, providence, and grace. He is a generous God who loves and serves unconditionally. He is the One who has revealed this mystery of salvation to His people. He is righteous and praiseworthy in all His ways. He sees us in our faithful lives, and He grows our faith through our service.)

5. What is our hope amidst our weakness/fallenness regarding these qualifications?

(When we take a look at these qualifications, we can't help but feel humbled, weak, and fallen. We fall short of these qualifications, and there isn't anyone who is qualified to hold any office in the church. In our weakness, we cry out to the Lord for mercy and grace.

Thankfully, He has sent us His Son, who is the perfectly qualified Deacon. He has met all these qualifications. He was not double-tongued, but revealed the will of God and accomplished the will of God for our salvation. He was not addicted to much wine but was sober-minded through the cross. He was the opposite of greedy in that He laid down His life to save and restore us. He lived with perfect righteousness and integrity, and now His righteousness has been imputed to us. He is the husband of one wife, the

Community Group Discussion Questions

church, dying for us so that we may live. He was crucified and shamed so that we may have the promise of good standing before Him.

It's Jesus' qualifications that define us. It's His qualifications that save and restore us. It's His qualifications through the cross and our union with Him that give us the ability to serve faithfully for Him.)

Final Thoughts: *These qualifications humble us and show us our need in our sin. However, our hope is in Jesus, who fulfilled every qualification perfectly as the Deacon who has served us in our salvation. Because of Him, God sees us as qualified. He enables us to live out these qualifications in our union with Him.*