

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.

Call: 2 Samuel 22:28

Text: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Title: "The Qualifications of Deacon"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:29

Next Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

Next Week's Title: "The Fruit of Love"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 22:30, 31, 32, 33, 47-49, 50-51

Future Titles: "Joy" (Galatians 5:22-23)

Fallen Condition Focus: We are unqualified Christians.

Christ redeeming FCF: Jesus is the perfectly qualified Deacon who served on our behalf and now is the power for us to live in this way.

Central Truth: Christ is the perfectly qualified Deacon who has saved and restored unqualified sinners like us.

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.

Reflective Questions:

1. What would you do if you encountered an unqualified officer or an officer in sin?
2. Which qualification do you struggle with the most? Why?
3. What does this show us about the heart of God?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
 - B. Transition
 - C. Proposition
 - D. Points
- II. Why? (Why are there qualifications for these offices?)
- A. The word Deacon means servant, and it is used to describe anyone who serves. We see this in the New Testament. Paul calls himself a Deacon, servant, and Timothy a Deacon, servant, as well.
 - 1. With Korean culture based off titles and respect, everyone is a “deacon.” And if they hold office, they are “ordained deacons.”
 - B. By the time of this letter, the term deacon wasn’t just used to describe anyone who served. It was an office that we saw in Acts 6 last week.
 - C. 1 Timothy is the first book of the pastoral epistles. Paul is writing to Timothy, because he is a young pastor of the important and growing Ephesian church. The book is written to guide Timothy on pastoring his church, with the main concern being false teachers.
 - D. That’s why these qualifications are on here. And that’s why character and doctrine are so important for these qualifications.
 - 1. These aren’t just qualifications for future and current officers. These are qualifications that we should all try to emulate.
- III. What? (vv. 8-13) (What are the qualifications?)
- A. Personal qualifications
 - 1. Dignified- respected, with good repute in the church
 - 2. Not double-tongued (or devious in speech)
 - 1. Some translations have this as sincere
 - 2. Not deceitful or hypocritical
 - 3. Office of sensitive information and also needed action
 - 3. Not addicted to much wine- sober-minded
 - 4. Not addicted to wealth (greed or dishonest gain)
 - 1. False teachers that Paul and Jesus talk about serve for dishonest gain.
 - 2. Need to be able to serve when there isn’t anything in it for them
 - 3. Working with a lot of finances so this is important
 - 5. Must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience
 - 1. Know it and walk it
 - 2. Mystery connotes humility (John Calvin)
 - 3. Stephen and Philip in Acts 7 and 8; mercy requires doctrine/gospel
 - 4. Clear conscience (sins washed away, integrity of walk)

6. Tested, proved blameless
 1. 4 months of training, examination by Elders
 2. This is not enough. The voting is essential, because we are voting men who have been faithfully walking and serving.

B. Familial qualifications

1. Dignified, not slandering, sober-minded, faithful wives
 1. Similar qualifications to Deacons themselves.
 2. It's a sacrificial calling for the whole family
2. Husband of one wife- purity, faithfulness, love, serve, care
3. Manage households well
 1. Serve one's household to serve another household (of faith)

C. Promise

1. Good standing- in the church and before God (who sees us)
2. Great confidence in the faith- service/walk grows our faith
3. We see the heart of God in these qualifications.

IV. How? (How are we able to live them out?)

A. *If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.* -Psalm 130:3-4

B. No one is qualified. This shows us how weak, finite, and sinful we are.

C. Thank the Lord there is one Deacon who was qualified in every way.

1. He was not double-tongued, but revealed the will of God and accomplished the will of God for our salvation.
2. Not addicted to much wine but sober-minded through the cross; Mark 15:23, 35; "So the first wine (mixed with myrrh) was designed to dull Jesus' pain, to keep him from having to endure the cross with full consciousness. This wine he refused. And the second (sour) wine was given to keep him "conscious for as long as possible," and thus have the effect of prolonging his pain. This is the wine Jesus drank." -David Matthis
3. Not greedy or served for dishonest gain- became poor so that in Him we might become rich; served to gain us
4. Lived with integrity; righteousness to become our righteousness
5. Tested to the point of death on the cross for our salvation
6. Husband of one wife- Laying down His life to purchase and restore us, His bride
7. Was crucified and shamed so that we may have the promise of good standing

D. Because of the love of the perfectly qualified Deacon, we are seen as qualified, and we are empowered to be qualified in our union with Christ.