Healthy Churches

**Develop Godly Leaders**

Part 1: They Develop Godly Deacons

(1 Timothy 3:8-16)

*8Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.*

*14I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 16Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:*

*He was manifested in the flesh,
    vindicated by the Spirit,
        seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
    believed on in the world,
        taken up in glory.*

*(ESV)*

***Acts 6:1-2***

*1Now 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. 2And 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.*

***Philippians 1:1***

*Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,*

*To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:*

***1 Timothy 3:1***

*The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*

Elder = Who? Older man

Overseer = What? Oversee

Pastor = How? Like a shepherd

***James 5:14***

*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

***Acts 15:1-2, 6***

*1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2**And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.*

*6The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.*

***What qualities are desired in a deacon?***

1. *They are respectable* (“dignified”)
2. *They do not speak out of both sides of their mouths* (“not double-tongued”)
3. *They do not have addictions* (“not addicted to much wine”)
4. *They are not greedy and materialistic* (“not greedy for dishonest gain”)
5. *They are doctrinally sound with a life of integrity* (“They must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience”)
6. *They have been tested in ministry responsibility* (“And let them all be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.”)
7. *They manage their homes well* (“Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.”)

A Challenge to the Women

**female deacons?**

* Why resume character traits of the “deacons” immediately afterwards?
* Why then say deacons are husbands of one wife?
* Why use the same word for the women throughout this chapter that refers to wives?
* Why not select females in Acts 6?

**deacon’s wives?**

* Why are elder’s wives not mentioned?
* Why not make it clear these are deacon’s wives by including the personal pronoun, “their” wives, instead of “women”?
* Why is Phoebe called a “servant” or “deacon” in Romans 16:1?

*They are respectable* (“dignified”)

*They are self-controlled with their tongue* (“not slanderers”)

*They have self-control over their life* (“sober-minded”)

*They are reliable* (“faithful in all things”)

***Why are church leaders important?***

* The Church has quality: It is ordered
* The Church has personality: It is a family of people
* The Church has God’s presence: He is living in it
* The Church has a mission: It must support and protect the truth