

Qualifications for Church Leadership

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

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1 TIMOTHY: DUTIES AND ORDER IN THE CHURCH, 1 Timothy 2:1-3:13

The Deacons of the Church, 1 Timothy 3:8-13

(1 Timothy 3:8-13) **Introduction:** this passage discusses the second officer of the church, the deacon. The office of deacon is so important that the qualifications required are just as high as those demanded of a minister or bishop. In this day and time, when worldliness, immorality, and lawlessness are running so rampant, the qualifications for deacons need to be studied, heeded, and guarded ever so diligently.

1. Personal qualifications (v.8).
2. Spiritual qualifications (v.9-10).
3. Family qualifications (v.11-12).
4. Results: reward reaped (v.13).

1. (1 Timothy 3:8) Deacons— Church, Officer of: deacons must be qualified; they must meet some personal qualifications.

1 Timothy 3:8 (NASB)

⁸ Deacons likewise *must be* men of [grave] dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,

When God raises up people to serve His church, He looks for those whose hearts are right with him. His concern is not about talents or abilities, **but spiritual virtue**. The men God has chosen to serve His people have always had hearts devoted to Him.

Nehemiah 9:8 (NASB) says of Abraham, “**You found his heart faithful before You.....**”

Nehemiah 9:8 (NASB)

⁸ “You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give *him* the land of the Canaanite, Of the Hittite and the Amorite, Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite— To give *it* to his descendants. And You have fulfilled Your promise, For You are righteous.

When **Samuel** searched for a successor to Saul, the Lord reminded him that “**the Lord looks at the heart**” (1 Samuel 16:7(NASB)).

1 Samuel 16:7 (NASB)

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Saul, chosen largely because he was “**a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel**” (1 Samuel 9:2 (NASB)), had turned out to be a disaster.

1 Samuel 9:2 (NASB)

² He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people.

To replace him, God “raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will'” ([Acts 13:22 \(NASB\)](#); cf. [1 Samuel 13:14](#)).

Acts 13:22 (NASB)

²² "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.'

1 Samuel 13:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

When he turned over the kingdom to his son Solomon, David advised him to “know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind” ([1 Chronicles 28:9 \(NASB\)](#)).

1 Chronicles 28:9 (NASB)

⁹ "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

Godly King Jehoshaphat of Judah was blessed by God because he “set [his] heart to seek God” ([2 Chronicles 19:3](#)).

2 Chronicles 19:3 (NASB)

³ "But there is *some* good in you, for you have removed the Asheroth from the land and you have set your heart to seek God."

God used King Josiah to lead a spiritual revival because his heart was tender and he humbled himself before the Lord ([2 Kings 22:19](#)).

2 Kings 22:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you," declares the LORD.

Ezra was used by God because he “set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel” ([Ezra 7:10](#)).

Ezra 7:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.