

Qualifications for Church Leadership

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13 (11)

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).

The Rewards of Faithful Service

4. (1 Timothy 3:13) Deacon— Testimony: the faithful deacon experiences two results.

1 Timothy 3:13 (NASB)

¹³ **For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.**

Two rewards await those men and women **who have served well as deacons.**

1. He gains a good degree or standing and testimony before **both God and man.**

James 2:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ **Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.**

First, they **obtain for themselves a high standing.** *Bathmos* (standing) literally refers to an elevated stand. Here it is used metaphorically to speak of those who are a step above everyone else.

In our vernacular, we might say they are put on a pedestal. That is not sinful pride, because deacons do not seek it, yet are worthy of it. Those who serve in humility will be exalted by God (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6), and by the church (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

James 4:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ **Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

1 Peter 5:6 (NASB)

⁶ **Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NASB)

¹² **But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and**

give you instruction,
¹³ and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.
Live in peace with one another.

Faithful deacons will be respected and honored by those they serve. It is only by commanding such respect that deacons can be examples, since respected people are the ones emulated.

1 Timothy 3:13 (NASB)

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a **high standing** and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

2. He gains **great boldness** or **confidence** and **security in the faith**. He experiences more and more assurance and freedom in the Spirit of God.

Second, they will gain **great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus**. *Parrēsia* (great confidence) is often used of boldness of speech (cf. [Acts 4:13](#)).

Acts 4:13 (NASB)

¹³ Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

The **faith that is in Christ Jesus** refers to the sphere of Christian truth, the family of believers. Successful service breeds confidence and assurance among the people served. Those who serve God well and see His power and grace operative in their lives will be emboldened for even greater service.

Ephesians 3:12 (NASB)

¹² In whom [Christ] we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Hebrews 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence [boldly] to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:22-24 (NASB)

²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

1 John 4:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.