

“Biblical Deacons”

Selected Scriptures

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Christ’s church has two offices: elder and deacon. All institutions that God has ordained—like government, the family and the church—will only be as healthy as the leadership structure that is set in place. Thankfully, God has clearly delineated His requirements for qualified deacons in His Word. Today we examine those requirements.

1. There are two required offices for the local church:

elders and deacons.

“Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons” (Philippians 1:1)

2. God requires a plurality of elders and deacons in each local church.

“select...seven men” (Acts 6:3)

3. Deacons are to be model servants in the church.

“to serve...men of good reputation...put in charge of this task” (Acts 6:2-3)

4. Deacons are to be biblically qualified.

“⁸Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

¹¹Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹²Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. ³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

5. Faithful deacons are to be esteemed by the body.

“men of good reputation” (Acts 6:3)

“deacons obtain for themselves a high standing” (1 Timothy 3:13)

“Ephroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need...receive him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard” (Philippians 2:25, 29)

*“But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you...esteem them very highly in love because of their work”
(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)*

6. Faithful deacons will be blessed by God in this life and in the next.

“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” (1 Timothy 3:13)

“In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only me, but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8)

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne...Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:31, 34)