

# *Deacons*

By

Robert C. Archer

# *What is the church?*



- Think of *saved people*
  - The church is people called out of the world by the gospel of Christ and who have accepted that call and who constitute a saved body unto the Lord.

## *“Church” Is Used in Two Senses:*

- ***Universal*** (Matt. 16:18)
  - Includes all saved people
  - Has no organization
- ***Local*** (1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1)
  - Saved people in a given area who come together to worship, pool some of their resources to engage in scriptural works
  - Has organization (Phil. 1:1)

## *Phil. 1:1*

“ Paul and Timothy, bondservants of  
Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ  
Jesus who are in Philippi, with the  
bishops and deacons:”

# Bishops



- Bishops – “Episkopos”  
Overseer -- “To superintend; to look over”  
(Acts 20:28)
- Elders - “Presbuterion”  
“age; one older” (Titus 1:7)
- Shepherds “Poiman”  
Pastors -- “To feed; to take care of”  
(Acts 20:28)

# *Deacons*



“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” (Phil. 1:1)

# *What Are Deacons?*



- Special servants
  - The Greek word translated deacon is “diakonos” which means, “One who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master; a servant, attendant, minister.”

# *Qualifications of Deacons*

- ***Reverent*** (1 Tim. 3:8)
  - Prudent, dignified, quiet, of sound judgment and not giddy
- ***Not Double-tongued*** (1 Tim. 3:8)
  - Double tongued means to have a double language; one who speaks one thing to one person and another thing to another person. In other words, he must not be two-faced.

# *Qualifications of Deacons*

- ***Not given to much wine*** (1 Tim. 3:8)
  - Not addicted to intoxicating drink
- ***Not greedy for money*** (1 Tim 3:8)
  - Must not be guilty of dishonest means to get money or greedy for more and more money
- ***Holding the mystery of faith with a pure conscience*** (1 Tim 3:9)
  - One who sincerely holds the truth with knowledge and understanding

# Qualifications of Deacons

- ***Must first be proved*** (1 Tim. 3:10)
  - Must not be a novice; must have shown that he has the qualifications and the ability to do what is required of him.
- ***Blameless*** (1 Tim. 3:10)
  - To be blameless or without reproach means to live in such a way that no charge of guilt can be proven against him.

# Qualifications of Deacons

- ***Must be a husband of one wife***  
(1 Tim. 3:12)
  - He must be married to one wife.
- ***Must rule children and houses well***  
(1 Tim. 3:12)
  - He is not required to have believing children as are elders, but he must rule his household well.

# *Qualifications of Deacons*



- **Wives**
  - ***Reverent*** (1 Tim. 3:11)
    - Prudent, dignified, quiet, of sound judgment and not giddy
  - ***Not slanderers*** (1 Tim. 3:11)
    - Not a backbiter or tale-bearer

# *Qualifications of Deacons*

- **Wives**

- *Temperate* (1 Tim. 3:11)

- One who has mastery over, having possession of, having control over oneself, self-disciplined; temperate, continent, curbing, restraining.

- *Faithful in all things* (1 Tim. 3:11)

- To her husband, children and the Lord

# *Work of Deacons*

- Is seen in the name itself – servant
- Example in Acts 6:1-7
  - Note: they had a special work to do.
- Examples: Shut-ins, widows and orphans, benevolence, baptistery, building inside and out, class material, taking and recording attendance, Lord's Supper supplies, ushers, scheduling, website, statistics, recording lessons, Bible course and others.

## *What About Deaconess?*

- All saints are servants:
  - Saints = Servants (Jno. 12:26)
  - Some had special jobs to do:
    - Phoebe (Rom. 16:1)
    - Onesimus (Philemon 12-13)
    - Mark (2 Tim. 4:11)

# *What About Deaconess?*

- Elders = Servants (Rom. 15:8; I Pet. 5:1-4)
  - All saints are servants, but not all saints are elders
  - We must distinguish these servants from other servants because they:
    - Have special qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1ff)
    - Are appointed (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23)
    - And have a special work (I Pet. 5:1ff)

# *What About Deaconess?*

- Deacons = Servants (Phil. 1:1)
  - All saints are servants, but not all saints are deacons
  - We must distinguish these servants from other servants because they:
    - Have qualifications (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 3:13ff)
    - Are appointed (Acts 6:3)
    - Have special work (Acts 6:1-7)