***"Dutiful Deacons"***

**1 Tim.3 & Acts 6 - 2/10/18**

*How are deacons to fulfill their duty to God through the local church?*

**1 Timothy 3:8-13**

1) By Being Dignified, Without Being Double-tongued. By Being Devoid Of Drunkenness, & Not Given To Greed For Gain.

God desires servant-leaders in His Church to be people of great character because first and foremost, we're *representing Him*.

**\*1 Tim.3:8**

To be a deacon *means* something - as God has given them high standards that are to be taken seriously and with great soberness.

Whether it's becoming the deacon you want to be, or the person God's calling you to be, remember - it's about daily conviction and character formation.

*"Character is a by-product; and it is produced in the great manufacture, of daily duty."* - President Woodrow Wilson

**1 Timothy 3:9**

2) By 'Holding To The Mystery of The Faith With A Clear Conscience'

There's a mysterious quality to the Christian faith (at times) that's to be *understood*, with a clear conscience.

" 'Mystery', is the open secret of God's truth hidden to man's unaided reason, but *revealed in Christ*."

This also refers to deacons being both sound in doctrine, and then practicing it - therefore having a clear conscience.

**1 Timothy 3:10**

3) By Being Tested & Proven, *In* Their Character & Service

**Acts 6:1-6**

These were men of "good reputation" (character), who were "full of the Holy Spirit" (spiritual maturity), as well as "wisdom" (*applied* spiritual truth).

Because this biblical office is integral in the life of a healthy church, the high standard the Bible sets must be maintained.

Deacons are to come alongside the flock in order to care for, minister to, and meet the people where they are at in life!

**1 Timothy 3:11**

The grammar and context in this passage suggests (as the NASB translates it), "Women"... A female deacon. **Romans 16:1+2**

4) By Bringing A Feminine Touch of Service, To The Bride of Christ **\*Vs.11**

These female servants were and are needed in the church, today!

**1 Timothy 3:12**

5) By Being A One-Woman Man, & By Overseeing Their Kids & Households Well

Deacons are to be fully faithful to their wives. They're to stay married, and love them well.

They are to take seriously, the responsibility and oversight of their kids, as well as the needs of the household.

He is to serve in his home as he is the Spiritual Head of his home, under Jesus. As it goes in the home, so it goes in the church.

**1 Timothy 3:13**

6) By Having "Served Well"

A deacon should be someone who is active, faithful, loyal, involved and participating in the life of the church.

This text is a character test; and a person's lack of involvement testifies to a flaw in their Christian character and commitment.

A deacon should "serve well" over time to demonstrate their capacity to persevere, even in the 'little things'.

There are large "pay-off's" for being a dutiful deacon. **\*Vs.13**