***"Dutiful Deacons"*(Part 2)**

**1 Timothy 3:10-13 - 2/17/18**

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

**1 Timothy 3:10**

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

We saw a good example last week, of what it could look like (Acts 6:1-6), to be tested and proven in a real-life church scenario.

These were men of "good reputation" (character), who were "full of the Holy Spirit" (spiritual maturity), and they had "wisdom" (*applied* spiritual truth). Individuals with these qualities are to be recognized by the congregation and approved by the pastors/elders, to serve.

This biblical office is integral in the life of a healthy church, so the high standard the Bible sets must be maintained. **\*1Tim.3:10**

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

God help us as elders/pastors, deacons and members, to always meet people where they are at in life - just as Jesus modeled for us.

**1 Timothy 3:11**

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

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

These women are to be "dignified" - 'grave, serious, weighty', and therefore, 'honorable'.

These women are not to be "malicious gossips" - a 'backbiter, accuser' - one who 'slanders, maligns or hurts the reputation of others' with intentionality, whether the information is true or false.

They are to be "faithful in all things" in the life of the church, (as well as outside of the church).

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

Whether a pastor/elder or a deacon/deaconess, this is never to be about power or control, but service - which has its benefits!

Ultimately, the role of deacon/deaconess is about serving God. **Matthew 23:10-12**

You don't have to have an "office" to serve.

**1 Timothy 3:12**

3) 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 their household.

He is to give spiritual oversight, provisions, parental involvement, structure, discipline, relationship management & communication.

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.

You can negate your responsibility before the Lord, but He still holds you and I ultimately responsible.

**1 Timothy 3:13**

4) By Having "Served Well"

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

The Bible knows nothing of the practice of nominating or electing people to positions of servant-leadership who have dropped-out, as a way of enticing them to drop back in on the congregation.

The church of Jesus Christ doesn't need leaders who won't go the distance and are now on the outside looking in; this text is a character test. 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**