

1 Timothy 3:8-15

LESSON 15

The Degree of a Deacon

1. 1 Timothy 3:8 – Deacons, too

- a. Tradition says if you want to change the church be a deacon (voting member)
- b. Deacons are not the deep pockets, yes-men, pastor's butlers, or the pastor's board
- c. A deacon is a local minister who is not the bishop – but must be “likewise”
- d. The word is only found in 1 Tim 3 and Phil 1:1 – “bishops and deacons”, not Acts 6

2. 1 Timothy 3:8-10 – Holding the Mystery

- a. Grave – serious, weighty, giving due importance – all are called to be – Titus 2:2,3,7
- b. Not doubletongued – speaking out of both sides, flattering, deceitful, duplicitous
- c. Against dissimulation – Ps 5:9, 26:4, Rom 3:13, 12:9; Jer 9:3, Mal 1, 2; Gal 2:11-13
- d. Single hearted is pure hearted (committed, dedicated, persuaded)–Co 3:22; Ro 14:5
- e. *“Holding the mystery”* – 1 Cor 4:1-2 is required; as is Eph 3:1-2, Col 1:26; Rom 16:25
 - i. Holding requires firmness, persuasion, continuing - 2Ti 1:13; Ti 1:9; 2Th 2:15
 - ii. *“pure conscience”* – they will not compromise for vainglory, clout, people

3. 1 Timothy 3:11-12 – Even So Must Their Wives Be

- a. *“even so”* - Just as important as the man is his wife - *“faithful in all things”*
- b. Why it matters? Your number one ministry is to your spouse (marriage)
- c. *“husbands of one wife...”* – If our ministry is the mystery then Eph 5:32 is important
- d. There is no such thing as a deaconess just as there is not a female husband

4. 1 Timothy 3:13 – A Good Degree

- a. A degree not purchased with money, time, favor, skill, but with good behavior
- b. *“Used ... well”*– being the good minister, with good behavior, standing for truth
- c. *“and great boldness in the faith”* – This comes with the job – Phil 1:20, Eph 6:19-20
- d. Great boldness in faith translates to desire/zeal – 1 Tim 3:13, 1 Cor 16:15-16
- e. More useful than skill, knowledge, is willingness /faithful /commit – 2Ti 1:14, 2:2
- f. How do you get this? Prove it! Prove it to God (not us) – 1 Tim 3:10; Gal 1:10

5. 1 Timothy 3:14-15 – Behaviour and the Truth

- a. These things were all written as things Paul would've said privately, *“but if I tarry”*
- b. Paul talks about behavior, order, integrity, purity, because... we are not a club
- c. *“house of God, church of the living God”* – This is dreadfully serious -Gen 28:17
- d. Are you a pillar of truth? You are members of Christ's body, which is a high calling.