

1 Timothy

Lesson 5 — Special Servants (3.8-13)

The Holy Spirit continues describing roles within the local church. The prior role, bishop, was a role of management, care, and oversight. The role described in this section is rooted in more physical service. These special servants, qualified to serve by the character of their lives, are called deacons.

- 1) Using a Bible dictionary, concordance, or an interlinear, identify the Greek word for “deacon”. What does that word mean?
A) _____
- 2) The first requirement listed for a deacon, besides desiring the office, is *dignity*. What does dignity mean?
A) _____
- 3) Both elders and deacons must be above/beyond reproach. How would an elder or deacon demonstrate this quality?
A) _____
- 4) Not only must prospective elders/deacons be qualified, but who else must be qualified (cf. 3.11)?
A) _____

THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

- 1) Acts 6 seems to give the most concise picture of the work of a deacon. What overlap do you see in the requirements of 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6?
- 2) Some argue that 3.11 is referencing “deaconesses” as special servants of the church. Respond to that argument from the text:
- 3) Which work is more important — elders or deacons?