

Life in Community
An Ordered Community, Part 3
The Place of the Deacon
1 Timothy 3:8-13

- I. Likewise - Deacons
 - A. A similar list of requirements as found with elders
 - B. Character based
- II. Character Matters
 - A. Men of dignity – worthy of respect
 - 1. Not double-tongued: “talking out of both sides of the mouth”
 - 2. Not an addictive personality
 - 3. Not greedy
 - B. Spiritually minded – hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience
 - 1. Men of spiritual depth
 - 2. Men whose public practices are consistent with their professed beliefs
 - C. Tested and beyond reproach
 - 1. Observed and evaluated
 - 2. Not “sinless”
 - D. Women and marriage
 - 1. It would appear that women can serve in this role, unlike that of an elder
 - 2. It would also seem that the marriage issue would be the same as that with an elder – one of proper commitment
- III. Their Work
 - A. Not found specifically in this text
 - B. From Acts 6:1-7
 - 1. Problem solvers

- 2. Meeting of felt/physical needs
- 3. Non-authoritative service work
- 4. To help relieve some of the burden of the larger ministry work from the pastors/elders
- 5. “Not better, not worse, just different”