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So, you've got finally come to the The main text. In scripture on the qualifications. Of the deacon first Timothy 3. Verse 8, through 13. These are the words of god. Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double tongued, not given too much wine, not greedy for money.

Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested. Then let them serve as deacons being found blameless. Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanders temperate. Faithful and all things. But deacons be the husbands of one wife. Ruling their children, and their own houses as well.

For those who have served well as deacons obtained for themselves. A good standing and great boldness. In the faith, which is in Christ, Jesus. Amen. Well, one of the reasons that we have gone through the entire book of first Timothy, To get to this point is to Place versus eight through 13.

Of chapter 3 in their context. In a church that needed reformation a church in which there was much ungodliness due to A permissiveness with who can teach and what they can teach and Order in the church had gone lacks and then doctrine in the church had gone lacks. And then conduct in the church.

Had gone lacks. And so Timothy is received charge from Paul. To put these things. Back in order. And one of the great things that is necessary, then is the worship in the home and in the church and chapter 2 has really focused on that. Many of you have had the blessing.

Of seeing that when the worship and the home. Was reordered or ordered ordered well. That the lord blessed that too. The theology, the way you thought from the Your whole family began to Think about god and think from his word. And not just your theology, but your conduct as the lord Jesus gives himself to you.

By means of his word and uses his truth, in particular, to convince your mind and heart of the things out of which flow, Uh, your lives and so Chapter 2 had set this template for Praying. Have in the first part of the chapter and And ruling and teaching. That results in everyone.

Seeing what god has given them is their part. Uh, that he is assigned to their role in the house, they're role in the church, and by way of that praying, and that ruling, and that teaching Reformation would come. Not just to the order of the house and the church not Not just to the fact that you have the worship but even To the conduct and life.

Of everyone there. Well, Those who lead? The this praying and Uh, ruling by the spraying and ruling and teaching, particularly in the congregation. The bishops are overseers and that's how we got into chapter 3. There's a good work then for the bishop or the overseer, the the work of ruling and teaching.

And And leading in prayer. And for this good work, there was a corresponding set of qualifications characteristics, graces that god gives to those through them. He is going to do that. Good work. But one of the things that overseers need, one of the things that bishops in the church need is deacons.

And we learned that back in chapter in not chapter 6. Back in Acts chapter 6. Didn't we? Where the the apostles who are functioning As elders in the church, they're doing this overseeing. They were doing this teaching, they were doing this prayer. Leading in prayer. In order to be able to give themselves to that, they needed.

Other men to oversee the distribution in that particular instance. To the widows, but to oversee the service in material things in the church, And the church is, And it's, we can state in Ephesus at the time that paul wrote to Timothy needed, the same thing not just Bishops overseers, whom God had Him god had given.

The character had grown matured in their faith that they might lead by this ruling and teaching and praying but also deacons Who might oversee? The service of the church in in material things, hopefully the result of the elders ministry. That they are freed for will also be that you will have more of these doctrinally convinced believers who are now by the word and fruit who of jesus having their mind and heart and life controlled.

And they are eager to do godliness. And so, Uh, we have the connection. Between the two and the connection is expressed in the first word and verse 8, likewise So the bishop has a good work to do and he has character qualities. That belonged to him, likewise Uh, the deacons Now, the deacons are overseeing A work.

We'll, As we'll see that more. As we go along, but this is a necessary pillar. For the restoration. Of that border and prayer and preaching and ruling in the church and in the home. So that sound doctrine unto godliness. Uh must also be restored. So what must the deacon be?

This is not just something that he needs to be as a man in order to become a deacon. This is a description of how he has to conduct himself. As a deacon, what? Now, what must he be? Well, the first thing that he must be is reverent Both the deacon, who's overseeing This work must be dignified noble.

Um, Uh, serious. Uh, not silly. Uh, and then we'll see that. Any of the women in particularly their wives, who are Um, who are doing the work? That the deacons are overseeing, the same word is going to be used of them. Inverse 11. And, Beyond the The language of dignity and nobility here.

Which by the way, it's It's very similar to the To the word reverence in chapter 2 and verse 2. It's very similar to the The word reverence. This. Remember the The joyous fear of god. Um, In the children, who submit in verse 4. It's It's another. It's a another form.

Built on the same root. But not only, then. Are they to be? Um, Those who conduct themselves properly and seriously even majesty of manner. Maybe implied by this word, but someone who's worthy? Conducts themselves in a way that is worthy. Of respect. Not only is his behavior. Uh, respectable.

But you notice this is the first qualification given him. This is the thing that characterizes him. He's? He is a man who conducts himself. And iris, respectable and respectful. Manner. The second thing, the deacon must not be is. And our english version here, has double tongued Uh, the word actually means something.

Even closer to double worded. In other words, he doesn't speak one way to Uh, to one guy to suit that situation. And then, Changes his tune as it were. When he speaks to another, Is consistent. He's impartial. It's very important for someone who is Making decisions about distribution of resources, and That.

That he would be someone who speaks straightly to everyone. Is. It's not double tongued or double word, it Uh, deacons are going to have to deal with difficult situations. So often have to be deciding between competing interests and multiple worthy causes. And so the consistency of conduct and impartiality, Um, our vitally important.

For. The deacon. He is not given to much wine. This is Uh, different. A different language. But similar in concept to verse 3, you remember the overseer was not someone who always had wine alongside him. This actually uses a verb for giving oneself over to something. To something. And you notice that the word Much is.

Is added here. He must be the, the sort of man who never Gives himself over to much wine. Um, The, the deacon Uh, is not necessarily then one. Who does not drink one at all. Obviously, Uh, but he is always ready to exercise. Good judgment. Uh, so Uh, you never know.

Um, When a real-time decision is, Going to need to be made. And the exercise. Of his office. Uh, but it also It also helps him. With one sort of. Uh, decision that he will have to make often. Uh, it is not a new thing. That those who are in financial need are often in that financial need because they have squandered their resources.

On things like drink. And a deacon needs to be a man who does not have that in common. Uh, with those whom he is Those to me is trying to help. He's not he must be one. He's not given to much wine. He must not be greedy for money.

This is The the same word that takes the word for shameful and the word for game and put them Uh together in just one word back up in verse 3 here, similar. To the elder who's overseeing or the bishop who has overseeing the minister of the church and spiritual things.

The deacon who is overseeing the ministry of the church of material things. Must not be a self-interested person. You remember this word for shameful game described? Someone who Uh, was primarily interested in advancing himself, whether financially as a as implied by our A bit of a paraphrastic translation. Greedy for money here.

In the New King James or in any other way. Whether advancing his reputation advancing his influence obtaining property, or pleasure of some Some other kind always. Always seeking to. Advanced himself and therefore not ashamed of whatever will work out that way. No, he must not be. Uh, such a self-interested man who always looking for an angle.

Um, Always looking for opportunity to advance himself, he must not be put in office. Where he'll have the opportunity to do that advancing of himself. At the expense, not only of the church generally Uh, but at the expense of those who are most needy particularly We have. You know, we have an example of that.

At large in our culture. Where those who are? Who have styled themselves. In civil government, to do something that civil government isn't. Really designed to do. Uh, but they style themselves as those who Take care of and help the needy, but they're really just advancing themselves and it doesn't bother them.

Um, at least not enough to stop. That their policies actually harm the needy, whom they whom they claim to claim to help. Uh, you know, one of the Uh, one of the books that Uh, our deaconate will. Uh, will read in on continuing education. Um, Well, once they are Installed as one called when helping hurts, and it's just A common sense.

How not to harm someone. By the quote unquote. Helped that you give them. We must resist the We all must resist the temptation to value being liked by others more than we value actually doing them. Good. And of course, We know this. Perhaps most of all with our children, there are many.

Times in which We must be more willing for our children to feel negatively about. Decision that we have made. Uh, then then we are willing for our children to suffer are trying to Um, appease them. So, he must not be. Uh, one who There's a man of shameful gain.

How then does? Uh, the deacon pursue These characteristics. How are these produced in him? Well, he holds to the mystery of the faith With the pure conscience. Now, we use the word mystery to mean something. Um, Uh something that we don't know. The the word in the bible is used of something that god.

Had kept to himself and that we wouldn't know. Uh, merely from the creation. But that god has revealed to us something, you know, about god. Uh, that the only way we can know it is from his word. And here, this mystery of the faith in verse 9 has its parallel in verse 16, the mystery of godliness and it's the truth about the lord jesus christ to is god God and man, in order to save us and Um, The salvation of course being not just forgiveness, but to make us to be like himself.

Uh, so one of the most important things for a deacon is that he believed the truth about jesus christ and that his his belonging to god by faith in jesus christ. Be the thing that has produced these characteristics, these qualities in him. In verse 8. In part because he's going to be leading.

The congregation overseeing the congregation and their works of godliness and what do you have? When you try to have godliness without. The truth about the lord jesus christ, and the truth about the gospel. Um, when you divorce those things, Uh, you end up first of all, with something that must fail.

Because true godliness can come only from christ. And second of all you actually do people's significant spiritual harm, Because when attempt at godly conduct is divorced from faith, in the lord jesus christ. The god man. We end up trusting in ourselves for godly conduct and praising ourselves. For the godly conduct and that's exactly exact opposite.

Of of christianity. And so it's very important then that the d can be doctrinally. Sound not only for his insect and his own good work and his own character. But that what he would be leading and overseeing the congregation in would be genuine christianity. Something that comes by faith in christ by union with him christ's own life in us Christ's own.

Godliness in us. Uh, this is why it's such. A. Uh, Trying to think of another word than abomination. It's a monstrosity about. That is a monstrosity. When you have churches that are not Very serious theologically. Right? The, the doctrines of the triune god and the incarnation and union, with christ, and justification, by grace alone, through faith alone, in christ alone, and sanctification being a necessary out, working of that, all of the, all of that good and important foundational theology.

Doesn't matter much to them, but they have all of these kind of social programs. He's These. Material or earthly outreach programs that is a divorcing. Of. Of the theology that produces actual godliness. From the godliness and it is, it is A monstrosity. It is the church as a whole trying to have.

They the actual service. Uh, Ministry or emphasis without verse 9 holding the mystery of the faith. With a pure conscience. The, the mystery of godliness. If you look down at verse 16, where he Um, Where he opens up even more, the sound doctrine. That this reformation and ephesus is supposed to be restoring.

And preserving. Um, now these are not the only qualifications of a deacon Uh, we have other qualifications from our study. Enacts chapter 6. Um, Now, but the the qualifications here in verses 8 through 13 are all necessary qualifications. A man should have. Each of them. If he's If he's going to fill the office.

Um, Man, i really thought we would Uh, get further, but we started very late. Um,

Let's uh, Let's, let's go ahead and And keep pressing on. Verse 10. But let these also first be tested. And then let them serve as deacons being found blameless. Um, there are At least three different ways in which they are tested. Uh, one is they're tested in their own home, and we're going to get to that.

In verse 11 and 12 in particular. Uh, if a man wants to, if a man is going to be called to oversee, Service in the church. That should not be the first place. He was called to overseas service. He should be a man who has overseen. Uh, service in his home.

First, with wife and children. And so forth. Also, he should not be overseeing service in the church if he's never participated. In service in the church. He should be tested. First. Yeah. And at least in the first one is on home, at least in the second way as being one who does the service.

Now, the office of the deacon is the one who oversees. Overseas service. They should not end up being the ones who do all of the serving. Uh, that misses Um, That misses, What our own. Confession and i can't remember now. Chapter 30 31. Anyway, the the chapter on the communion of the saints.

Put service to one another in. In earthly needs as something that belongs to every believer. As an obligation, we are all obligated to serve one another in earthly, and temporal things. So he should be a man who has served well, Under. Under the deacons and then He should be.

A man who has been Been given opportunity to lead things as well. And has. And has done well in those things. So they should first be tested. And then they can serve in the office. That is being described here. As deacon being found blameless. Now, the word Blameless, here is different than the word blameless.

Up in. Um, up in verse 2. This. This word is one that. Is not, it does not. Does it does apply to character, but it is. It focuses. On. Error approachable, conduct as well. Um,

Where do i have that here? Yes, it focuses on how well spoken of their service in the home, their service in the, in the earthly servant ministry of the church. But their service. As they have led things. Uh so it's the the specific actions have been blameless. Then afterward, they shall.

Serve as deacons. In other words, Uh, the men who have this conduct the men have been tested. This is. This is something that is presented in verse 10. Not as optional, but as a command, there is a necessity. Of having this. This office. Where our version reads and it's Five words in the english.

Let them serve as deacons. It's just a single Uh, imperative verb, command, verb from the root word for deacon. They shall. Deacon. Um,

Think we'll have, we'll have to stop there.

Sorry, that was a lot but we didn't get started until 20 after. So we had to go faster a couple a lot. There any, uh, There, any questions from that? When it does, when it does come time for nomination. Of producer sheet for you. Uh, that reminds you of the qualifications.

Here in verses 8 through 13 and the ones from act 6. Uh, to help you. Uh, think through and consider. And consider that. This man.

He, it seems strange. So being drunk with wine is listed as a sin. You much great. We know that's expressly a sin, but then it's expressed as a qualification for You know, not living in this sin. It's kind of, it's kind of Is there any significance? And then, it's listed as a sin, and then they explicitly list it in the list of not.

The things deacons can't do, but probably all the other settings are included too, right? I don't, it seems like an interesting overlap, right? Well, there are Or is there you can't have a sinless man, right? You shouldn't have a man who's living unrepentantly in any sin, because that man should be under church disciplined.

Um, But they're, but there are Particular graces. That are especially necessary for the work. And so those should be strengths. And there are particular vices That are especially disqualifying or ending to the work. And so those must not be weaknesses. So we're so over seems to be an emphasis as well as giving over essentially.

Because that kind of a point. Okay, it man has given over to anything. That's probably not off fit for an office, should be on a church. I smile assuming That we're given overseas and i don't know the great though. Yeah. Um, He's holy surrendered to something else. Something else is this master?

Oh It's, it's a reflexive. Uh, It's a reflective form of a verb. That does mean give. So, gives himself too much one. Of you might paraphrase it indulgence himself in. In much wine. Okay, just trying to discern the significance of One being list as it's, you know, the sin and also giving us.

Well, i think all of the qualifications Uh, you know, this is something We think of especially with respect to the elder because the elder is presented in scripture as the example of godliness that the The congregation should follow. Um, But i think all all of them are things that should be.

Uh, you know, all of the grace is presented or graces that everyone is under obligation to All of the vices prohibited are things that everyone is on under obligation to mortify, right? Right. All of, so, He should actually be what we're all called to pursue in christ. Right. There's um, Perhaps the the language or idea of maturity, Remember that came in.

Also, with respect to the elder. Or the overseer in. Oh well, we've been doing the last couple weeks. I don't know if you've gotten a chance to listen. Um, But he wasn't to be newly planted and the the dangers, the dangers of that.

Our father in heaven. We thank you for giving us an entire world. So i went to enjoy your goodness and by which to reflect your goodness, and what we do With the earthly things you have given us. We thank you that you have given us your son. Who is more than heaven and earth and all that is in them.

And then together with him. Given us all things. We pray, lord that you would Uh, so blessed. Ministry of this congregation and staying spiritual and things temporal. That christ might be much glorified. By the display of your character in him and his character in us. As we are conformed to his image.

Help us. Now, as we come together to you, grant that That we would rejoice at this dress rehearsal for the last day. When people from many nations. Uh, draw near Uh, to you. And grant that we would do shifts through christ and his name, we ask it. Amen.