

## **We Are the Living Picture of God - 1 Timothy**

### **Christ Serves His Church by Deacons - 1Tim. 3:8-13**

**Introduction:** The Church to maintain a picture-like quality of her God Savior. Servant leaders are a part of God's design for order, beauty in His Church. We have looked at shepherds/elders and now we see servers--deacons. This passage shows us that deacons are internally deep and their work serves the Church and the needy, thus making Christ impressive.

#### **I. A general picture from NT of the servers, the deacons**

**diakonos vs. 8** one who serves, waits on tables

- A. Acts 6:1-6 setting apart servers in order to free-up the elders
- B. Philippians 1:1
- C. Ways the deacons serve: collect & manage offerings, help maintain finances of the church, order & distribute gifts to needy, visit sick other practical assist to elders to keep operations of church orderly

#### **II. Qualities of the deacon**

- A. Dignified, worthy of respect v. 8
- B. Not double-tongued, hypocritical—worthy of respect v. 8
- C. Not addicted to wine—not dependent on external sources v. 8
- D. Not greedy for money/dishonest gain—contentment in Jesus v.8
- E. Holding to the mystery of our faith w/ clear conscience v.9
- F. Let them be tested, serve and be proven blameless v.10
- G. Women/wives be dignified, not slanderer, sober minded, faithful  
Traditional interps. of this verse:
  - 1. women servers who assisted, but no office of deacon
  - 2. wives of deacons
  - 3. women who were deacons, serving alongside men deacons

H. A one woman man v. 12 similar of elders v.2

I. Men good manager of household and children v. 12

#### **Application:**

##### **1. Believers, let's live out the mystery of the faith, daily!**

**v. 13** A worthy goal for all believers: to gain a greater confidence in the faith that clings to Jesus Christ!

Hebrews 10:4

Hebrews 9:12

We live in full light of the revealed mystery

We share the answer of the empty cross, the empty tomb

Do I live a cross-centered life?

Do I allow cross of Christ intersect my real-time thinking & doing?

##### **2. The office of deacon points to a Greater Deacon: Jesus the Servant**

Luke 22:25-27

Mark 10:43-45

Most wonderful act of servanthood irony: the holy God who demands our worship/service, stepped toward us and served us by His death on a cross!

John 13:5-8 Have you come to Jesus, will you let Him wash you in the forgiveness of His blood on the cross?

#### **1 Timothy 3:8-13 ESV**

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup>And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. <sup>11</sup>Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup>Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. <sup>13</sup>For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.