

## Questions, Quotes and Notes

September 11, 2022

1 Timothy 3:8-13: The Church's Servant Leaders

### Pre-Sermon:

Here are some questions to think about to get you ready to listen to the sermon on Sunday.

1. What is the mission of a church?
2. What are some things that a church has to do if it is going to be effective at fulfilling that mission?
3. What is a deacon and what does a deacon have to do with the church and its mission?

### Mid-Sermon:

We are looking at 1 Timothy 3:8-13 together and answering the following questions: 1.) What is a deacon? 2.) Why do we need deacons? 3.) Who should be deacons? And 4.) Why be a deacon?

But instead of having you simply focus on listening for an outline, I want to give you some important ideas to listen for. So, as you come to the service, bring a piece of paper and a pen, and see if you can answer these questions as I preach.

1. Why should everyone in the church be interested in what the Bible says about leadership in the church?
2. What are some details that are involved in a church fulfilling its mission that you have taken for granted in the past?
3. What are some examples of things that are not exactly the main mission of the church that can help the church fulfill its main mission more effectively?
4. What does the word deacon mean?
5. What are some wrong ideas people have about deacons?
6. What image helps us understand the word deacon?
7. What is the difference between an elder and a deacon?
8. Are deacons leaders or servants?
9. Why do we need deacons?
10. When we appoint deacons we are appointing people who will do what two things to help the church live as a family?
11. What stood out to you as we discussed the character of a deacon?
12. What were the two motivations Paul gives to serving as a deacon?

## Notes:

### Post Sermon:

- Important Quotes:
  1. For us to do the main things well, like preach, make disciples, love people, reach out to the lost and help the hurting it is going to require us thinking about the details. And yet if we think about all those details it can become so overwhelming that we get distracted from doing the main things well.
  2. "Deacons maintain the unity of the body by giving leadership to the serving of temporal needs."
  3. "Elders were to wait on their teaching, exhorting and ruling, and the deacons on their ministering, giving and showing mercy." Just as 'earthly princes' hire two kinds of servants to care for their children's souls (chaplains and tutors) and for their bodies (nurses and cooks), so 'Christ, the King of kings' cares for His family with two kinds of servants, elders and deacons.'
  4. "The main task of the elders is theological oversight; the main task of deacons is practical ministry. Only one important qualification distinguishes elders from deacons: elders must be 'able to teach' (1 Timothy 3:2) and 'able to . . . refute those who contradict [sound doctrine]" (Titus 1:9) There is no such requirement for deacons; they simply 'must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.' (1 Timothy 3:9) Elders, then, are charged primarily with the theological, doctrinal, and moral leadership of the church, focusing especially on the faithful teaching of Scripture. Deacons are charged with the practical leadership of the church under the oversight of the elders. Again, this clearly parallels the division of labor in Acts 6: the Apostles devoting themselves to 'prayer and the ministry of the Word' and entrusting the Seven with the daily ministry to widows."
  5. "The world has always measured greatness by the standard of service, not the service a person gives, but that which he receives. In business a man or woman is often judged successful if many people report to him. Happiness and success is then to be found at the top of the pyramid. At the bottom is misery and drudgery. Plato said, 'How can a man be happy when he has to serve someone?' For the Greeks, menial 'service' was not dignified, surely not to be sought as a way of life. But Jesus changed all that, radically reversing the world's standards. He did not make subtle

changes or adjustments in a well-entrenched system. He turned the whole thing upside down, making, as it were, the first last and the last first. That kind of change does not allow for compromise. Choice is necessary, and only between two options. Greatness in life, achievements is measured by the world's standard, 'service received,' or by the standard of Jesus, 'service given.' How does someone reverse a standard whose acceptance has been so nearly universal among all people and throughout all centuries, perhaps especially in our present world? He does it by demonstration. He deacons. Place a high value on that word; it rises from the heart of the gospel."

6. "When during World War II the Netherlands were occupied by Germany the deacons of the Dutch Reformed Church assumed the care for the politically persecuted, supplying food and providing secret refuge. Realizing what was happening, the Germans decreed that the elective office of the deacon should be eliminated. The Reformed Synod on 17 July 1941 resolved: "Whoever touches the diaconate interferes with what Christ has ordained as the task of the Church... The Germans backed down."

- Application:

We don't want to be hearers of the word only, but doers. Being a doer usually takes thinking, however. Spend some time thinking about how you can apply what you learned today.

1. How did this sermon impact the way you think about the church?
2. How can you pray for the church as a result of this sermon?
3. Jesus thinks about greatness very different than the world. How did this sermon illustrate that? Do you think about greatness the way Jesus does?
4. How can you serve to help the church better fulfill its mission?

- How Well Was I Listening Questions:

Here are some questions you can ask your children after listening to the message.

1. What passage did we talk about today?
2. What did Pastor Josh say about it?
3. What part did you think was important?
4. What does the word deacon mean?
5. Why do we need deacons?
6. What are some reasons anyone would want to be a deacon?

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