

## QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

These are the qualifications for a deacon. Use these when you are considering anyone for this office. No matter what you feel about this man or how popular he is, you need to by faith use these qualifications God has put in His word.

| <b>1. Scripture Reference: Acts 6:3</b>   |                                  |  |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Bible Version</b>  | <b>KJV:</b> men of honest report | <b>NAS:</b> good reputation  |
|   | <b>NKJV:</b> good reputation     | <b>NIV:</b> translates these words as “known to be” and connects it with being full of the Spirit and wisdom |
| <b>Meaning:</b> This is also translated “well spoken of” by the NAS in Acts 10:22; 16:2; 22:12 and the NIV has renderings which communicate the same idea as the NAS in these verses with the meaning of a good reputation. The KJV and NKJV follow this idea as well |                                  |  |
| <b>Question:</b> Does he have a good reputation for obeying the commands of the Bible among both believers and unbelievers?   |                                  |  |

| <b>2. Scripture Reference: Acts 6:3</b>  |                             |                            |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> full of wisdom  | <b>NAS:</b> full of wisdom |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> full of wisdom | <b>NIV:</b> full of wisdom |
| <b>Meaning:</b> Wisdom is both knowing and obeying God’s word (see Matthew 7:24-27). |                             |                            |
| <b>Question:</b> Does he know and obey God’s word?                                   |                             |                            |

| <b>3. Scripture Reference: Acts 6:3</b>  |                                      |                                |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> full of the Holy Ghost   | <b>NAS:</b> full of the Spirit |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> full of the Holy Spirit | <b>NIV:</b> full of the Spirit |
| <b>Meaning:</b> The Holy Spirit visibly controls his life.   |                                      |                                |
| <b>Question:</b> Do the results of the Holy Spirit’s filling clearly show in his life?   |                                      |                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ephesians 5:18-21               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Does he edify (promote Christlikeness in) other believers?</li> <li>(2) Does he demonstrate praise to God?</li> <li>(3) Is he able to come to the point in all adversity where he thanks God for all things – good or bad?</li> <li>(4) Does he readily submit to those in authority over him?</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Acts 4:29-31 – Is he a bold witness for Christ?</li> </ul> |                                      |                                |

| <b>4. Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:8</b>   |                       |                               |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> grave     | <b>NAS:</b> men of dignity    |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> reverent | <b>NIV:</b> worthy of respect |
| <b>Meaning:</b> This type of person is noticeable as an example other believers would want to imitate? |                       |                               |
| <b>Question:</b> Is he someone believers would want to imitate in obeying God’s word?                  |                       |                               |

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| <b>5. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:8   |                                 |                                |
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> not doubletongued   | <b>NAS:</b> not double-tongued |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> not double-tongued | <b>NIV:</b> sincere            |
| <b>Meaning:</b> This refers to someone who says one thing to one person and another contradictory thing to another person. |                                 |                                |
| <b>Question:</b> Are his statements to others consistent?  |                                 |                                |

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|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>6. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:8  |                                     |  |
| <b>Bible Version</b>  | <b>KJV:</b> not given to much wine  | <b>NAS:</b> not addicted to much wine  |
|   | <b>NKJV:</b> not given to much wine | <b>NIV:</b> not indulging in much wine |
| <b>Meaning:</b> The control of alcohol over behavior and life                                     |                                     |  |
| <b>Question:</b> From the perspective of others, does he have a problem with chemical dependency? |                                     |  |

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|---|--|---|
| <b>7. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:8  |  |   |
| <b>Bible Version</b>  | <b>KJV:</b> not greedy of filthy lucre | <b>NAS:</b> not fond of sordid gain     |
|   | <b>NKJV:</b> not greedy for money      | <b>NIV:</b> not pursuing dishonest gain |
| <b>Meaning:</b> One who does not try to gain money by acts of disobeying God's word such as stealing, swindling, extortion, fraud or pilfering? |  |   |
| <b>Question:</b> Is he involved in dishonest gain?  |  |   |

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|---|--|--|
| <b>8. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:9  |  |  |
| <b>Bible Version</b>  | <b>KJV:</b> holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience    | <b>NAS:</b> holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience            |
|   | <b>NKJV:</b> holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience | <b>NIV:</b> must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience |
| <b>Meaning:</b> This refers to a person who is loyal to the newly revealed truths of the revealed body of truth (i.e. the New Testament) and keeps his conscience clear by living it out in faith and obedience |  |  |
| <b>Question:</b> Is he doctrinally sound and obedient to New Testament teachings?   |  |  |

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| <b>9. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:10   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Bible Version</b>  | <b>KJV:</b> Let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless | <b>NAS:</b> Let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach       |
|   | <b>NKJV:</b> Let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.         | <b>NIV:</b> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. |
| <b>Meaning:</b> The Living Bible probably gives the best explanation of this verse: “Before they are asked to be deacons they should be given other jobs in the church as a test of their character and ability, and if they do well, then they may be chosen as deacons. The Greek words translated “blameless”, “beyond reproach”, “nothing against them” simply mean there must not even be an accusation against them because of their handling of their test jobs or responsibilities in the church. |   |  |
| <b>Question:</b> Has he been tested with any job or responsibility in the church, and was there any accusation – provable or unprovable - against him regarding his performance?  |   |  |

*Note: Items 10-13 give qualifications that must be met by the wife of the deacon in order for him to become a deacon.*

| <b>10. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:11  |                       |                               |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Bible Version</b>  | <b>KJV:</b> grave     | <b>NAS:</b> dignified         |
|   | <b>NKJV:</b> reverent | <b>NIV:</b> worthy of respect |
| <b>Meaning:</b> This type of person is noticeable as an example which other people would want to imitate. |                       |                               |
| <b>Question:</b> Is his wife someone who believers would want to imitate in obeying God’s word?           |                       |                               |

| <b>11. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:11   |                             |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> not slanderers  | <b>NAS:</b> not malicious gossips |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> not slanderers | <b>NIV:</b> not malicious talkers |
| <b>Meaning:</b> One who avoids speaking about others in a manner that harms either the person spoken of or the hearer in keeping them from becoming more like Christ |                             |                                   |
| <b>Question:</b> Does his wife speak about others in a manner that helps the hearer and the person spoken of to become more like Christ?                             |                             |                                   |

| <b>12. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:11   |                        |                       |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> sober      | <b>NAS:</b> temperate |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> temperate | <b>NIV:</b> temperate |
| <b>Meaning:</b> The Greek word “neepho” refers to one who is ruled by the mind and not anything external or outside of the person. This person will guard her mind from allowing outside events or communication from moving her mind from a godly course. |                        |                       |
| <b>Question:</b> Is his wife easily swayed by external pressure or by other people?  |                        |                       |

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|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>13. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:11  |                                     |                                       |
| <b>Bible Version</b>  | <b>KJV:</b> faithful in all things  | <b>NAS:</b> faithful in all things    |
|   | <b>NKJV:</b> faithful in all things | <b>NIV:</b> trustworthy in everything |
| <b>Meaning:</b> Someone who can be trusted or counted on to act according to her word |                                     |                                       |
| <b>Question:</b> Is his wife trustworthy and one who keeps her word?                  |                                     |                                       |

*Note: In the items that follow the qualifications of the deacon himself continue to be considered*

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|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>14. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:12   |                                   |                                       |
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> husbands of one wife  | <b>NAS:</b> husbands of only one wife |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> husbands of one wife | <b>NIV:</b> husband of but one wife   |
| <b>Meaning:</b> He presently has one wife and demonstrates commitment to her. This says nothing of past marriages just as the other qualifications say nothing of a man's history. The translation is "a one-woman man." This sets an outer limit and would not prevent a single man from serving such as Jesus or Paul. |                                   |                                       |
| <b>Question:</b> Is he showing a present and recent pattern of being committed to one woman as his wife?   |                                   |                                       |

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|--|---|---|
| <b>15. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:12   |   |   |
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> ruling their children...well  | <b>NAS:</b> good managers of their children |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> ruling their children...well | <b>NIV:</b> manage his children...well      |
| <b>Meaning:</b> His leadership style produces children who respond obediently.               |   |   |
| <b>Question:</b> Are there problems with his children accepting or rejecting his leadership? |   |   |

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|--|---|---|
| <b>16. Scripture Reference:</b> 1 Timothy 3:12   |   |   |
| <b>Bible Version</b>   | <b>KJV:</b> ruling...their own houses well  | <b>NAS:</b> good managers of...their own households |
|  | <b>NKJV:</b> ruling...their own houses well | <b>NIV:</b> manage...his household well             |
| <b>Meaning:</b> One who can lead his family in such a way that they live and work together in harmony.   |   |   |
| <b>Question:</b> Does his family respond to his leadership in such a way that it would be something that people would imitate, i.e. in terms of biblical standards not cultural standards? |   |   |