

1Tim 3:8-16

Vs 8 *Diakonia* – It seems they were the ones that did more of the physical aspects of the church but were held to almost as high a standard as elders. The difference seems to lie in the calling. The first deacons in Acts 6 seemed to be pretty powerful at preaching and evangelizing for two of the seven are Philip and Stephen. Acts 6 does not use the title but the job was the literal meaning of the word, to wait on tables. They were supposed to be men full of the Spirit and wisdom. The first martyr came from this group.

Vs 9 The deacons needed a clear understanding of the basics, the essentials of the Gospel for they as leaders would be asked questions also. They needed to do so with a clear conscience and an understanding of God's word. Paul mentions this issue of conscience many times. We have to be people that are not wrestling with conviction but yielding to it and confessing and forsaking our sin. We must quickly make things right in our life and with our brothers.

Vs 10 A time of testing, getting to know them and their manners is important. A new person can pretend for quite awhile, but the wrong person in leadership can cause many a problem. Serve – to be a leader is to serve. Nothing against them – we would desire that only those who can represent Christ to the world would lead so that the cause of Christ not be mocked because of a hypocritical example. Paul could see this day coming when people would use the excuse of poor leadership examples would be used to keep people away from Christ.

Vs 11 *Wives* here is the word for any woman, married, single, betrothed. The word in Greek makes it possible to include women other than wives of deacons. Some scholars do not agree with that opinion but many do. Phoebe appears to have been a female deacon with no mention of her husband (Rom 16:1). Slanderers (malicious talkers) is literally 'she-devil' (me diabolous). The Devil is the chief slanderer. The application to men is the KJV 'double tongued' saying one thing to one person and another to someone else – people pleasers. Worthy of respect, temperate, trustworthy in everything, should all apply to the wife of a leader or a deaconess. Dropping these standards so as to not 'offend' anyone has kept those people from growth and hindered the church of Jesus Christ.

Vs 12 see 3:2,4 Not flirtatious.

Vs 13 What an encouraging verse for servants of the Lord – excellent standing – God has prepared a place for them in the Kingdom. Great assurance – you have more confidence in your faith seeing God work through you but it also means a

boldness and opportunity for public exposure. Reminds me of how Wellington Boone preaches. The life is an example of the word preached so it carries great weight and conviction as it is spoken.

Vs 14,15 Here Paul reminds us what he is writing about, instructions for conduct in God's house. Don't confuse this with while you are in a building. You are the building so you are always in it. The church of the living God is the pillar and foundation of the truth? You bet – look at the names in the foundation. Truth is Christ Jesus and the church is his body. What does the world see of the Truth but the church? We are to physically manifest the life of Christ in all we do! Quite a responsibility to walk in holiness and utter dependence on God.

Vs 16 These six rhythmic phrases that may be an early hymn of the life of the Savior. The mystery of the church is Christ Jesus. He was incarnated. His vindication was the Spirit raising him from the dead. Angels observed this and were witness to the full payment for sin and victory over hell and death. The story had rapidly been spread over the face of the known world. He ascended to the right hand of the Father where He reigns in glory. NCV starts this verse like this: Without doubt the secret of our life of worship is great... Examining each word in the Greek it seems to say, "And all agree, huge is this hidden thing, holiness." Do you agree? Is the hidden thing, Holiness, a huge thing to you?