

“Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church:
What is a Deacon?”

1 Timothy 3:8-13; Matthew 20:26-28; John 12:25-26; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

- We have all been called to serve/be generous, *Deacons* have been called to be examples of servanthood/generosity.
 - *Matthew 20:26-28*: Greatness/contentment in Christianity is found in humble servanthood. We have been called to give or pour our lives out for the gospel (2 Corinthians 12:15).
 - *John 12:25-26 & Acts 20:35*: When we prefer our interests over the will of God we will lose eternal life. When we make Christ and His will our priority we will show we have eternal life. It is better to give than to receive in God’s economy.
 - *2 Corinthians 9:10-12*: Generosity in your resources leads to holiness and holiness leads to more generosity. Holiness and generosity leads to God being praised or glorified.
- Proper standards of holiness leads to proper governing of the church. (1 Timothy 3:8-13).
 - Personal qualifications:
 - *Dignified*: They are serious about God’s work; they are worthy of respect.
 - *Not double-tongued*: They keep their word and they do not gossip.
 - *Not addicted to much wine*: They practice sobriety and self-control.
 - *Not greedy for dishonest gain*: They are responsible with or a good steward of their money.
 - Spiritual qualifications:
 - *They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience*: They live out their biblical convictions.
 - *They prove to be blameless*: Strive for holiness; morally excellent.
 - *They are devoted and faithful to their spouse*: They care for the spiritual condition of their spouse.
 - *They manage their households*: They practice personally what they will be practicing publicly in the church.
- General information about *Deacons*:
 - The word *Deacon* can be translated in multiple ways; as one who serves, as an administrator, or one who brings relief. But what we know for sure is that this office was given to the church to help people with their physical needs and serve the church by serving, hospitality, organizing, and welcoming.
 - The *Deacon* position also exists to assist the Elders in ministering to the people so that the Elders can focus on preaching/teaching, prayer, and developing leaders within the church (Acts 6:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:1-5).
 - The *Elders* are the teaching/preaching and governing office of the church (1 Timothy 2:12, 3:2, 5:17, Titus 1:9). This office is to be held by men and the office of *Deacon* can be held by men or women. *Deacons* are equally qualified with *Elders* in terms of character and spiritual life. Preaching/teaching and governance are the major distinctions.
- *Deacons* are called to be examples of the biblical work ethic:
 - *We are called to be fellow workers with God* (1 Corinthians 3:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:2; Colossians 4:11).
 - *Hard work is holy and virtuous and slothfulness is a sinful vice* (Proverbs 12:14; Proverbs 12:24; 1 Corinthians 4:12; Ephesians 4:28).

(continued →)

Worship: Grace Alone (Kings Kaleidoscope) Christ the Solid Rock (Norton Hall Band)
 Holy, Holy, Holy (Sovereign Grace Music) **Closing Song:** Grace and Peace (Sovereign Grace Music)
Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *Idleness destroys the church* (Proverbs 18:9; Proverbs 21:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).

“Failure to expend full effort in living for Christ can be justified in all kinds of ways, from self-care to self-love to a demonstration of the conviction that we’re not saved by works — so we’ll perform works sparingly and sporadically, since they aren’t really required for salvation. This will never lead to a life of holiness or a life that pleases God. This is incredibly offensive and true (Colossians 1:10; Hebrews 13:20-21; 2 Corinthians 7:1).”

(Robert Yarbrough)

“How many hours weekly do many in the church, including ministers, squander in online activities that are excessive or even illicit? Then there are, for some, still more hours of TV or movies or sports — all justifiable in theory, but in many lives amounting to a replacement of what should consume us: God, the furtherance of his kingdom, and labors that promote his holy and redemptive aims for us. Yes, God grants rest and leisure and recreation in their appropriate place. But many believers at some point wake up to how worthy Christ is of their devotion, not merely sentimentally or “spiritually” but in the expenditure of time and physical energy in ways that social media, ESPN, CNN, FOX, Internet browsing, and other black holes for time wastage cannot monetize. In many cases, we are not only idolizing indolence but paying for the privilege.”

(Robert Yarbrough)

Announcements:

***Volunteers:** We have a couple of wonderful opportunities for our church members to get involved in serving our church body:

1. CHILDREN’S MINISTRY: If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please talk to Kalen and Courtney!
2. HOSPITALITY MINISTRY: We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping with providing snacks in the lobby before the worship service. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions, please talk to Madison!

***Fellowship Dinner:** We are having a Taco Bar Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service! We invite EVERYONE to stay and enjoy dinner and fellowship with us!

***New Members Meeting:** If you are interested in or have any questions about Church Membership, we will be having a short New Members Meeting NEXT Sunday, May 16th, immediately following the worship service!

***Heartbeats Donations:** We are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats throughout the months of May and June. Heartbeats is doing a Virtual Bottles for Life 2021 Campaign that will run from Mothers Day, May 9th, through Fathers Day, June 20th. Their goal this year is \$99,000, to cover all medical services for 2021. A woman is 80% more likely to choose life when she sees her baby on an ultrasound! We have a collection container on the back table, this is NOT our normal offering container! Throughout May and June you can choose to bring your monetary donations and put them into the container, and we will give that to Heartbeats by June 20th. OR you can give electronically, directly to Heartbeats, the giving information is on the card in front of the collection container on the back table.