

7. **A Picture Of A Mature Church's Organization** In his salutation to the Phillipian Church the Apostle makes three distinctions in the local membership: (Phil 1:1) "*To all the _____ in Christ Jesus which are at Phillipi, with the _____ and _____.*" (a) Would Paul have named them if they hadn't had them? ____ (b) This organization met Paul's approval meaning it was the will of Christ. (c) It would make no sense to have elders (ie: overseers, superintendents) if there were no specially delegated servants (ie: deacons) or dependent members (saints). (d) Some saints are newborns, novices, and there are always those "*_____ and _____ among you.*" Such need overseeing and can't be expected to do much serving. (Mt 15:14) "*If the blind _____ the blind, both shall _____ into the _____.*" Scriptural organization is a must.

The Qualifications Of A Deacon – 1 Timothy 3:8-13

8. **Grave (V8)** This means *venerable* or *honest, of dignified carriage and conduct*. The GK *semnos* is found 3X-3V KJV NT. In (1 Tim 3:8) it reads, "*Likewise must the _____ be _____.*" It also applies (V11) to the deacon's _____ and to (Titus 2:2) _____. While used specifically only in these passages, it has application to every Christian.
9. **Not Doubletongued (V8)** Literally this means *equivocal* (ie: telling a different story). Such a one would be a hypocrite (ie: an actor under an assumed character, a dissembler). James says (1:8) that "*a double minded man is _____ in all his _____.*"
10. **Not Given To Much Wine (V8)** This qualification is different from that of the elder (V3) only in that the word "*given,*" meaning *staying near wine* is here (V8) *hold the mind* or *pay attention to*. Additionally, the word "*much*" modifies the amount the deacon may imbibe. (a) God commanded Aaron, the first high priest: (Lev 10:9) "*Do not drink _____ nor strong _____, thou nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the _____ of the congregation, lest ye die.*" (b) We deduce, in view of this Jewish prohibition, that the drinking of wine be limited, or excluded, in Christianity, especially when one serves publicly.
11. **Not Greedy Of Filthy Lucre** This prohibition is identical to that of the elder (V3). **Holding The Mystery Of The Faith In A Pure Conscience (V9)** It's not enough just to be knowledgeable of God's Truth. The deacon must be pure in heart with regard to the Holy Word. Like Paul (Acts 24:16), he must "*have always a conscience _____ of _____ toward _____, and toward _____.*" (Prov 23:23) "*Buy the truth, and _____ it not.*"
12. **Be Proven – Blameless (V10)** "*And let these also _____ be _____; then let them _____ the office of a _____, being found _____.*" We recommend you carefully study TPBS Lessons [#42-46](#), Elders. (a) The GK word for "blameless" is different in (V2) and (V10) but the meaning is the same in both instances. (b) The deacon must have good character; not a novice.
13. **The Wife (V11)** This applies to her, not him. It reflects on his judgment and assures that his domestic circumstances are positive and not a hindrance to our Lord's work. (a) It seems to apply to Christian wives, certainly to the elder's wife. (b) "*Even so must their wives be _____, not _____, sober, _____ in all things.*" There are no original GK words for "*must their.*"
14. **Wife And Family** "*Let the deacons be the _____ of _____ wife, ruling their children and _____ houses well.*" Is this different from (V2, 4-5)? ____ (a) Some argue elders must have "*faithful*" children, but not deacons. (b) If "*faithful*" (Titus 1:6) only means *a baptized believer*, this may be so. We don't necessarily concur with this conclusion.
15. **Summation** This lesson is very condensed. Most of the deacon's qualifications are the same as that of the older men who serve as overseers (ie: elders). See: TPBS [#42-46](#). The word "servants" identifies faithful Christians from the Apostles to Phebe. Congregational deacons are special servants and should, in time, be in line to become _____.