

QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

I. Church Qualifications

- A. Men who have not been ordained and are scripturally eligible.
- B. Men who have been ordained and have previously served as Deacon in this church or another Southern Baptist church.
- C. Men who are at least 22 years of age.
- D. Men who have been married no more than once, except where the previous wife (wives) has (have) died.
- E. A man whose wife has been married no more than once, except where the previous husband(s) has (have) died.
- F. The nominee must have been a member of Parkview Baptist Church for at least one (1) year prior to nomination and a Christian for at least two (2) years.

II. Scriptural Qualifications

The qualifications for deacons can be divided into two categories: Personal Character and Spiritual Character.

A. Personal Character

He must be a man of dignity. The Greek term translated “dignity” means “worthy of respect, stately, dignified.” It denotes a seriousness of mind and character. A deacon must be worthy of respect and serious-minded, not treating serious things lightly.

He must not be double-tongued. He is always consistent and righteous in what he says. He is not to be one who says one thing to one person and something else to another. He knows how to bridle his tongue and is not a malicious gossip.

He must not be addicted to much wine. He is to be characterized by clear thinking and self-control.

He must not be fond of gain. His goals in life are not to be monetary. First Timothy 6:9 says that a pervasive desire for financial gain corrupts a man.

B. Spiritual Character

He must be doctrinally sound. First Timothy 3:9 says that he must hold “to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” “The faith” refers to the whole of Christian truth. The spiritual character of a deacon begins with his affirmation of New Testament doctrine. A “clear conscience” is the result of obeying the truth. He must hold to the faith and apply the truth in his life.

He must be active in spiritual service. Verse 10 says, “Let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons.” The verb translated “be tested” speaks of an ongoing test, not a single test or probationary period. The test is an ongoing general assessment by the church of his service to Christ. Before being affirmed as a deacon, he must prove himself to be faithful in serving the Lord.

He must be morally pure. His life is to be “beyond reproach” (v. 10). Like an elder, a deacon must be morally pure, having an irreproachable character. Verse 12 echoes the standard of moral purity, for it says, “Let the deacons be husbands of only one wife.” A deacon must be totally consecrated and devoted to his wife.

He must lead a godly family. Verse 12 also says he must be a good manager of his children and household. The proving ground for leadership is how a man manages his children and home, and the way that a man cares for his children and home is an excellent indicator of his ability to care for God’s church.

After the Deacons have thoroughly considered each man nominated as to his scriptural qualifications, they shall interview these qualified men. The Deacon Body shall recommend to the church the nominations for election as Deacons.