

1 TIMOTHY

TRUSTWORTHY TRUTH

A Good Servant of Christ Jesus

⁶If you put these things before the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather, train yourself for godliness; ⁸for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹The

an unbeliever.
¹⁰Let a widow be enrolled if she is more than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, ¹¹and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. ¹²But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry ¹³and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. ¹⁴Besides

yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, ¹⁶so that all may see your progress. ¹⁷Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching,

truly widows.
¹⁸Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁹As Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." ²⁰Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

1 Timothy 3:8-13

¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.

1 Timothy 3:8-13

¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served [*deaconed*] but to serve [*deacon*], and to give his life as a ransom for many

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ
Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at
Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

Dignified Deacons Serving

Deacons are a subset of members of a local church, who meet moral and spiritual qualifications, have been affirmed by the Church, appointed by the Elders and serve with prescribed duties and designated authority.

Dignified Deacons Serving

A church without effective deacons may exhibit signs of health for a while, but over time its health will suffer. We rob ourselves of the benefits of God's revealed wisdom when we either unduly elevate the role of deacons (say, to pseudo-elders) or unduly reduce their role (say, to glorified janitors).

Dignified Deacons Serving

Biblically understood, deacons are a cavalry of servants, deputized to execute the elders' vision by coordinating various ministries. When deacons flourish, the whole congregation wins.

- Matt Smerthurst

Acts 6:1-7

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said,

Acts 6:1-7

“It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 6:1-7

⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

Acts 6:1-7

⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Dignified Deacons Serving

Elders are to authoritatively lead the Church.

Tasks: Preaching, teaching, protecting the doctrine and the flock, pray and shepherd (pastoral care).

Dignified Deacons Serving

Deacons are to humbly serve the Church.

Tasks: identify and meet tangible needs, protect and promote unity in the Church and to serve and support the ministry of the Elders.

1 Timothy 3:8-10

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

1 Timothy 3:11

¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.

Romans 16:1

I commend to you our sister Phoebe,
a servant of the church at Cenchreae,

1 Timothy 3:12-13

¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.