

DEACONS & DEACONESSES

A. KEY PASSAGE – 1 Timothy 3: 8-13

- v. 8 Deacons must be “_____”
- v. 10 Deacons must be “_____”
- v. 12 Deacons are to be “_____” of one wife

B. THE WORD “DEACON” – **diákonos**

#1249 Means: a “_____”, a “_____”

* Applied in a _____ Sense

Phil 1: 1 As a church office In the Philippian Church

* Applied in a _____ way:

As a characteristic

Rom 15: 8 Christ “Christ has become a _____”

Rom 16: 1 Phoebe “a _____ of the church in Cenchrea”

John 12: 26 Those who serve Christ “where I am, there shall My _____ also be”

Col 1: 7 The Faithful “a faithful _____ of Christ”

Col 4: 7 “our beloved brother and faithful _____”

1 Tim 4: 6 “you will be a good _____ of Christ Jesus”

* All “servants” are not _____ !

* When Paul addresses church offices, he never mentions deaconesses.

C. THE WORD “WOMEN” – **gunē** (1 Tim 3: 11)

#1135 Means: “_____”, or a “_____”

* Translated: wife 71, wives 11, woman 96, women 33 (Strong’s Exh. Condord.)

#1133 A _____ form of **gunē** (**gunaikas**)

Meaning: (See 2 Tim 3: 6) _____

* In the surrounding context – deacons before & deacons after (men, tested, husbands of one wife)

* These “women” refer to the “one-wife” women of the deacons – not a third office

D. SOME POIGNANT OPINIONS

1. Warren Wiersbe

“Some translate v. 11 as “Deaconesses”; the word is probably “wives.” We have no clear evidence in the NT that the early church had deaconesses as well as deacons. In any event, these standards applied also to the deacons’ wives.”

2. John Freeman

“It does not appear from the Scripture or early church literature that deaconesses were ever church officers.”

3. A. T. Robertson

“The strict separation of the sexes made something like deaconesses necessary for baptism, visiting the women, etc. Whether the deaconesses were a separate organization on a par with the deacons we do not know nor whether they were the widows alluded to in 1 Timothy 5: 9f.”

4. New Covenant Prophecy Edition: (a Hebrew translation)

1 Tim 3: 11 “In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.”

Rom 16: 1, 2 “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.”

E. THE SBC POSITION

Based on NT evidence, and sound hermeneutics, there are two offices in the local church, deacons and elders. It is also clear that women served and ministered in the early assemblies. They were and still are a necessary ministry serving within the local church but not as a third body of officers.