

DEACONS

From the series – 1 TIMOTHY: EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY

SUMMARY...

We often view serving in the church as simply filling a need that has to be met. The reality however is that serving in the church accomplishes so much more in us and around us when we follow the example of Jesus and the biblical model for leader servants, also known as Deacons. As we continue in 1st Timothy 3, we hear Paul's heart for the church to install leaders and servants that model for others what it looks like to behave like Christ. He wasn't looking for perfection in these leaders, rather, for the evidence of fruit in their lives. That is, the evidence of Jesus working in them, and changing their hearts to look and behave more like Him, SO THAT, the truth of the Gospel would continue to go forth from the Church.

Although not all are called to be deacons, we are ALL called to serve the church. It's important for us to remember that Jesus loves the church, and gave himself up for her. His church is his plan to redeem a lost humanity and restore people back to right relationship with God. Jesus doesn't want us to serve because he wants something *from* us, He wants something *for* us. Through serving, we experience the joy that comes from laying our lives down and pouring out the love that he so generously lavished upon us.

LEARN... BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read [1st Timothy 3:1-12](#) – begin by making some general observations of this text. What are some of the qualities and character requirements for deacons that stick out to you? Are you surprised that there are not other requirements listed for an office such as deacon? Pick one characteristic that you need to grow in; what steps could you take to strengthen that characteristic?
2. Read [1st Timothy 3:14-15](#) – Why did Paul write these things to Timothy regarding the leaders of the church? What are his concerns for the church? How are you behaving in the church that is helping (or not helping) to promote unity, amplify the gospel, and to reflect the truth (Jesus) to others?
3. Read [Acts 6:1-11](#) – Acts 6 is often referred to as the prototype for the early church for the deacon role. Although you will not find the word “deacon” in this text, the context is consistent with the work of “diakonos”. What were the challenges of the church and why? What did the leaders do to help solve the problem? What was the result from installing these men to care for the needs of the church?

NEXT STEPS...

Ask yourself: “How am I serving the church?” If not serving, reflect on what holds you back; and if you are serving, are you feeling called to lead, or to pursue becoming a deacon?

To join a TEAM, fill out this [TEAM form](#) and begin the process!

To step into leadership, register for [Chapter Two](#) and [Chapter Three](#) to become part of the GENESIS story! And for information about GROUP leadership, come to [GROUPS 101](#)!



helping ALL people walk with God