

BIBLICAL QUALITIES OF A GODLY LEADER

It is essential that we look to the Scriptures for guidance and direction in the deacon selection process. Paul stressed a man's reputation, ethics, morality, temperament, habits and spiritual maturity as the qualifications for deacons. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)

Above Reproach [Blameless, Upright, Holy]

God is primarily interested in character, not talent. A man having no obvious flaws, which could bring down reproach upon him, his family or his church. Clean, irreproachable, above pettiness. Someone recognized by others as having a high moral code of conduct. Perfect? No! But someone who exemplifies Jesus Christ in his lifestyle. One who is honest, trustworthy, radiates Christ, loves people, keeps his word, doesn't let you down, and is thoughtful and consistent.

Husband of One Wife

He must be loyal to his wife. It will be impossible for him to be a good shepherd to the congregation if he can't be a good husband.

Temperate [Self-controlled, Disciplined]

Just and fair, honest, orderly, not a radical or self-indulgent, has the wisdom to judge rightly, makes good choices and sound decisions. Has a clear perspective on life and a correct spiritual orientation. He is stable and steadfast.

Respectable ["of good behavior"]

He is a gentleman physically, mentally and spiritually. He displays inner moral excellence and outward orderly behavior. His life-style adorns the teachings of the Bible. His speech, and business manners reflect a proper relationship to biblical principles and doctrines.

Hospitable

Demonstrates genuine love and hospitality. An attitude of unselfishness; a friend of strangers. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Able to Teach

Someone who has the ability to communicate values to others. A desire to study, a constant student. Every leader is a teacher, some teach in word, others by example. A man of the Book, humble, sensitive and has a desire to know the will of God.

Not Given to Drunkenness

The implied idea is that someone who can't control a vice or an area of their life, whether a substance or habit, is not to be a leader. Such a person is not ready for leadership in the local church.

Not Violent ["out of control"]

A man who is quick to fight with words or otherwise is not to be a leader.

Gentle [patient, to yield, not compromise]

A man who is characterized by meekness, forbearance and kindness.

Not Quarrelsome

Not contentious. Not one who causes or who stirs up trouble, not one who struggles against others but strives to get along.

Not a Lover of Money

Paul says that the love of money is a root of all evil. When earthly possessions multiply, God is often forgotten. Leaders must be heaven-minded and not earth-minded.

Manages His Own House Well

A man must prove himself capable at home before being given the responsibility of administering the affairs of the church. Does this say that the children never sin? Of course not. A family is still the acid test or measure of a good man.

Not a Recent Convert

Church leadership is not for new Christians. There should be spiritual development and evidence of Christian maturity.

Good Reputation with Community

He must have a favorable testimony, honest of character and moral principles. He may not be understood because of his stand for Christ, but he must have a good reputation in the community.

Not Overbearing ["self-willed"]

Not insisting to always having things his way. Deacons work as a team. Someone who can be depended upon to serve the interests of the Kingdom of God.

Not Quick-Tempered [hot-headed]

A man who is composed, poised and under control of all human emotions, including anger.

Not Pursuing Dishonest Gain

A man's finances and ability to handle money reflect his devotion to God. The Bible condemns laziness but strongly supports hard work. (*See 2 Thessalonians 3*)

Loves What is Good

A readiness and desire to do biblical good or what is beneficial to others, things that are useful, upright and honorable. Deacons must not only love what is good, but DO what is good. Philippians 4:8 says "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Holding Firmly to the Gospel

Devout, loyal and true to the scriptures and the good news of Jesus, Not only in teaching and preaching the gospel, but also, living it [lifestyle].

Perfection is not required, but a desire for it. Some of you are being called to the challenge. Maybe you don't feel qualified, but rather than becoming discouraged, set these qualifications as your goal. Make them the standard that you will seek to achieve. Please prayerfully consider the expectations and your ability to meet those expectations.

We ask you as a congregation to bathe this entire process in intense prayer.