

Application: How do we honor those who serve in our church family? Do you take time to thank those who serve you privately? What can we do as a congregation to honor those who serve collectively? Is there someone you can thank today?

Everything in the work of Christian ministry must point to the “good news” of Jesus Christ.

“How Does The Church Stay On Course?”

Letters to Timothy Part 7

1 Timothy 3:8-16

The High Value of Servants.

1. Men serving the congregation.

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

1 Timothy 3:8-10

Deacon = *servant*, one who waits tables.

A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

1 Timothy 3:12

Elder/Deacon Comparison:

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Above reproach	Beyond reproach
Husband of one wife	Husband of one wife
Temperate	
Prudent	
Respectable	Worthy of respect
Hospitable	
Able to teach	
Not addicted to wine	Not addicted to (much) wine
Not pugnacious	
Gentle	
Peaceable	
Free from the love of money	Not pursuing dishonest gain
Manages household well	Manages household well
Not a new convert	Tested
A good reputation	Holding the mystery of faith and a clear conscience
	Sincere/not double-tongued

A deacon serves the needs of the congregation with sensitivity, efficiency, compassion, and skill.

2. Women serving the congregation.

In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

1 Timothy 3:11

Three possibilities for our consideration:

- A) *Paul is referring to the wives of deacons.*
- B) *Paul is referring to women in general.*
- C) *Paul is referring to women who serve as deacons. (Some refer to this as the office of "deaconess".)*

3. The rewards of serving.

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:13

A) They earn the esteem of fellow believers.

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. Romans 16:1-2

B) They earn a high standing in the kingdom.

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26-28

"But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:26-27

C) A faithful servant gains an unshakeable confidence in the truth of the gospel.

4. The goal of Paul's writing to Timothy.

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great:

He appeared in a body,
was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels,
was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world,
was taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 3:14-16

...godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Timothy 4:8

"May the one priority of each of us be to display the truth of Jesus Christ our Lord. May we not add, alter, or replace His truth but always proclaim the truth."

From 1 & 2 Timothy Devotional