




SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 TIM 3:8-13

1 This week, we are discussing the role and qualifications of deacons--lead servants of Christ's church. Think together about how deacons are an essential part of a church's structure. How could a local church be impoverished without a strong diaconate ministry? What might that look like in practical terms?


 *How would you describe the difference between elders and deacons in the church? How do their distinct roles work together for the betterment of the body?*


 *In our contemporary setting, what are some practical ways that deacons can serve and free elders to fulfill their roles? What can elders do to foster a culture where deacons can thrive in their service to the church?*

 *How do both the deacons and elders imitate Jesus in particular ways (see 1 Pet. 2:21-25; Luke 22:24-27, Philippians 2:4-10)?*

2 Was it arrogant of the apostles to refuse to serve tables and instead get others to take on this task in Acts 6:1-6?

 *How does your understanding of diverse Spiritual gifts help you understand the situation (see Rom. 12:3-8)?*

 *Without a healthy view of the church as a body and the diversity of the Spirit's gifts, we can lose sight of what is most important in our service and the service of others. How can you struggle at times viewing your ministry or the ministry of others rightly?*

 *How can the following verses help realign our thinking about ministry: 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, Romans 12:3-8, Galatians 6:4-5, Ephesians 4:11-16.*

3 **Faithfulness is required of both elders and deacons.** What significance should we find in the fact that “faithfulness” is so often a requirement of someone involved in ministry?

♥ *Deacons were supposed to serve with a clear conscience. What can happen to a person’s ministry when their conscience is not clear?*

4 **It can sometimes be difficult to find people to fill the role of deacon in the church.** Why do you think that is?

🗨 *If the office of deacon is one of service, why do you think they must first be tested?*

♥ *Are there any aspects of the deacon qualification list that seem hard for you?*

5 **Do you know who our deacons are and what they do?** How could your group practically show appreciation for GGC deacons?

♥ *Consider ending your time together in prayer for the deacons God has blessed us with at Gospel Grace: Don Bigelow, Paul Howell, Andrew Groenewold, Nathan Swartzendruber, Stephen Craker, Nathan Knochel, Ben Hulin, Jim Miller, Karl Miller, Greg Buhr, Simon Vasquez, Eli Clark, Zach Hunt, and Kyle Grinstead.*