

The Doctrine of the Church ***Church Leadership (Part 2b)***

a) **Biblical Offices of Leadership within the Church**

i) Deacons (*continued*)

a) The Requirements of a Deacon (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

(1) The focus of these qualifications: moral character¹

(a) “Dignified” (v8)

(b) “Not Double Tongued” (v8)

(c) “Not Addicted to Much Wine” (v8)

(d) “Not Greedy for Dishonest Gain” (v8)

(e) “Sound in Life and Faith” (v9)

(f) “Blameless” (v10)

(g) Further qualifications for women deacons: “Dignified”; “Not Slanderers”; “Sober-minded”; “Faithful in All Things” (v11)

(h) Further qualifications for male deacons: “Husband of One Wife”; “Managing Children and Household” (v12)

(2) Compared to the character qualifications for elders, Benjamin Merkle is correct when he states, “*The main difference between an elder and a deacon is a difference of gifts and calling, not character.*”

¹ This discussion of deacon qualifications is adapted from Benjamin Merkle’s article “The Biblical Qualifications and Responsibilities of Deacons” found at <https://www.9marks.org/article/biblical-qualifications-and-responsibilities-deacons/>

b) The Role of a Deacon (Acts 6:1-6)

(1) Acts 6:1-6

(a) Context of the Passage

(b) Four Principles for a Deacon's Ministry:

(i) Deacons lead by caring for physical needs

(ii) Deacons lead by caring for the unity of the body

(iii) Deacons lead by supporting the ministry of those responsible for Word ministry

(iv) Deacons lead by equipping the body for the work of service

d) The Reward of a Deacon

(1) The Glory of God in His Church (Acts 6:7)

(2) *"For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."* (1 Timothy 3:13)