

Serving Like Our King > 1 Timothy 3:8-13

3:8-9 As with overseers (**1 Timothy 3:1-7**), those who serve the church as deacons are likewise called to live in such a way that their character and beliefs will provide a faithful example to those watching.

3:10 While deacons can be younger in the faith than an overseer, they are still to be tested: there is to be a pattern of faithfulness about them that is apparent and not in question.

3:11 A female deaconess is a woman who, similar to a male deacon, sets an example for the church in how to serve one another and the cause of Christ. Since the result is a similar (though distinct) role, the qualities of any woman who wishes to serve this way run parallel to those of a male deacon.

3:12-13 Lastly, Paul aims his attention at men once more, returning to similar qualities about how a man is to conduct himself in his marriage and his home. All of this service won't go unrewarded, however: those who serve Christ's church in this way will have the joy of firsthand growth in the Lord!

Context: Paul continues with his explanation of how the church is to function as a spiritual family.

Aim: The church in Ephesus is to learn from the pattern of those dedicated to serving the Lord as faithful examples.

Gospel: Christ Himself perfectly embodied service to others – since this is a call for all Christians, we need faithful people who will show us what this looks like in our daily lives.

Application: Men and women – are you qualified to serve in this way? If not, what needs to change? If you are, will you?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
