

Biblical Qualifications¹ (based on 1 Timothy 3:8-13):

Six General Requirements (1 Timothy 3:8-10)

1. Dignified: worthy of respect, without any character defect, holy
2. Not double-tongued: sincere, heartfelt, earnest, honest, authentic
3. Not addicted to much wine: without addictions, self-controlled
4. Not greedy for dishonest gain: not a lover of money, financially content and upright
5. Hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience: sound biblical theology held with deep conviction
6. Tested: proven worthy over time

Four Additional Requirements for Female Deacons (1 Timothy 3:11)

7. Dignified: honored by both men and women as exemplary Christians, without any character defect
8. Not slanderers: not malicious talkers, not prone to sins of the tongue such as gossip, slander, lying, etc.
9. Sober-minded: temperate, not prone to emotionalism
10. Faithful in all things: trustworthy in everything, faithful in all life roles (e.g., wife, mother, daughter, sister)

Two Additional Requirements for Male Deacons (1 Timothy 3:12)

11. Husband of one wife: a one-woman man, sexually pure
12. Manages his children and household well: godly husband and father who leads, manages, and provides for his family

Rewards for Faithful Deacons (1 Timothy 3:13)

1. A good standing for themselves: honored and respected by God's people in the church
2. Great confidence in the faith: assurance in their faith, a deep confidence in the power of the gospel and the security of their relationship with God

Biblical Responsibilities & Duties:

Serve as Pastoral Assistants. The Greek word for Deacon means "servant," and beyond this *prescriptive* title and the *descriptive* example in Acts 6:1-7 the Bible infers that Deacons serve alongside the Pastor-Elders based on the needs of the church. The two occasions in the New Testament where they are mentioned (Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:1-13) are in relation to elders implying the two groups of leaders work closely together.

Commenting on Acts 6:1-7 and the duties of Deacons, Pastor Mark Driscoll writes that "from this section of Scripture we can extract the biblical principle that when senior spiritual leadership is overburdened to the degree that they do not have time for prayer, Bible study, and the care of needy people, they are free to appoint pastoral assistants to help alleviate some of their burden."²

¹ This list of biblical requirements and rewards is taken from Mark Driscoll, *On Church Leadership* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008).

² Mark Driscoll, *On Church Leadership* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008).