

Leadership in the Body of Christ – Part 3

Review

- The church in the NT is described as a body with many members (Rom. 12:4-5). Jesus is the head of the body & we are the members. Jesus the Head guides us by His **word & Spirit**.
- There are two offices or official roles for leadership in NT: Overseer & Deacon (Phil. 1:1).
- We've already looked at the office of Overseer. We learned that the office & calling is from God & reserved for male leadership. Qualifications: high standards in his personal, family & church life & his life among unbelievers. Duties: Leading & protecting, feeding & caring for practical needs [delegated to the deacon].
- Last time we looked at the office of deacon. We learned that the office & calling is from God & reserved for male leadership, but women may assist. Qualifications: high standards in his personal, family & church life. Duties: Manage the care for needy church members & manage the finances of the church.

I. The Definition of Women Who Assist Deacons (1Tim. 3:11)

- A. Wives is not the only translation (esv, kjv, nkjv, niv)
*“γυνή” means an adult female. The context must provide additional information to determine if she is married or single. I believe this is not limited to wives because nothing is said about the wives of overseers, “γυνή likewise” means they are a unique group like the overseer/deacon & γυνή is translated **woman** in 2:11. “**women**” (nasb, nrsv, amplified)*
- B. The office of deaconess is not the intended interpretation
There is no special section or separate paragraph used in describing this group as with the overseer & deacon. Rather it is put in the middle of the description of the office of deacon – not a separate office! Only 2 offices (Phil. 1:1).
- C. The pattern of male leadership is maintained
Order of creation (1Ti. 2:13), Jesus selected 12 men to lead (Mt. 10:1-4) & the HS selected 7 men to lead (Ac. 6:1-7).
- D. The pattern of assistance is maintained
*Deacons are selected to **assist** overseers when needed & women are selected to **assist** deacons when needed!*

II. The Qualifications of Women Who Assist Deacons (v. 11)

- A. She must be dignified
Like the deacon, this means that her lifestyle and behavior is worthy or respect & honor.
- B. She must not be a slanderer
This means that she does not engage in malicious gossip. She does not engage in talk that is intended to injure or bring harm to someone else.
- C. She must be sober-minded
Like the overseer, this means that she is balanced in her thinking; balanced in her reasoning. She exercises restraint in her thoughts & actions.
- D. She must be faithful in all things
Like the deacon, she must be dependable, trustworthy & reliable because she will be involved in very intimate & sensitive areas of people's lives (specifically other women). She is entrusted with people's physical & emotional well-being.

These women must control their thinking & mouths; emotions & tongue. They are not required to have the gift of teaching or to be mature Christians.

III. The Duties of Women Who Assist Deacons (Ac. 6:2-3)

Assist with “serve tables” & “this duty” – meeting physical needs

- A. Assist in the care for needy church members (Ac. 6:1-3)
Needs are food, clothing & shelter particularly as it relates to women (1Tim. 6:8; Jas. 1:27).
- B. Assist with the finances for church members (Rom. 16:1-2)
Managing financial matters, particularly as it relates to women.

In the early church, women were also uniquely involved with other women & children (Tit. 2:3b-5; 1Tim. 5:10). Women also assisted with the sick, poor & at baptisms.

CONCLUSION

Now my beloved brothers & sisters in Christ, would you agree with me that Jesus loves His church & He has made provisions for all the needs of His church to be met? This great plan of Christ enables us to function properly in a manner that pleases God; in a manner that gives each member a role & function that avoids confusion, competition, contention, comparison, opinions, traditions, fads, trends, movements, ways of men & women, etc. This is the simple way, gospel way, biblical way (Mt. 11:29-30). If you love Jesus, then you love His ways, His word, light, life... There's no greater joy than pleasing Christ. I say to every Christian here today, male or female, God has made plans for you to live a fulfilled life in the body of Christ. I have only addressed 3 roles & ways to serve, but there are so many more. So please continue listening, learning & asking the Lord how He wants you to serve in His body.

If you are not a Christian, your question is not how to serve but rather how can I be saved. This is the great question that Jesus came into the world to answer. **He is the Lamb of God that came to take away the sins of the world; include your sin my friend. The gospel...**

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