

- “their wives likewise...”: what... and why...
- marriage and household

“husband of one wife”

“managing their children  
and their own households well”  
= household rule (see 1 Timothy 5:17)

**Lastly: Two encouragements to serve – 1 Timothy 3:13**

#### **4. Question – what about female deacons?**

1 Timothy 3:11, “wives likewise” OR “women likewise” ?

Romans 16:1, “I commend to you our sister Phoebe,  
a servant of the church at Cenchreae”

Acts 6:1-7 – \*\* apostles appoint men to lead in the diaconal  
care of needy women \*\*

A note from church history

## **Deacons (2): the character of the Deacon**

### **Discuss while waiting to begin**

Think of the people who have most helped you as a Christian. What are they like?

### **1. Biblereadings**

Philippians 1:1, “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,  
with the overseers and deacons.”

Acts 6:1-7

1 Timothy 3:1-15

### **2. Recap: the TASK of the deacon**

*From the IPC’s Book of Church Order*

The Office of Deacon is ordained by Christ for the purpose of ensuring that Christian brotherly love is implemented in practical ways by assisting the needy in the family of the church. It is a separate office from that of Elder (a man may not be both an Elder and a Deacon at the same time).

This is, first, because the ministry of mercy to the needy within the church is not to be neglected (Acts 6:1,3). And second, because the

ministry of mercy is not to distract the Elders from the ministry of the Word and prayer, which is of first importance (Acts 6:2,4).

Therefore, every IPC congregation shall form and maintain a Diaconate which shall be distinct from the Session while operating in close partnership with and under the authority and supervision of the Session.

The Diaconate is responsible for:

- i. monitoring the needs of members of the congregation and others who attend regularly;
- ii. when practical needs (including, but not limited to, financial needs) become evident, taking such steps as may be appropriate to meet those needs from the resources of the congregation (this may include the management and use of specific diaconal funds, as well as organising and directing the church Members to provide practical help when needed);
- iii. when resources allow, facilitating the church to act in Christian love towards those outside the church in meeting material needs;
- iv. to do these things in such a way that the Elders are able to concentrate on their God-given ministry of the Word and prayer.

### **3. The QUALIFICATIONS of the deacon**

What might we look for? – skills... influence...

What should we look for? – not competencies...  
but CHARACTER (Acts 6:3, 1 Tim. 3:8-13)

→ → →

- **“of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom”**

- **worthy of respect**

“Dignified” = “worthy of respect”

= NOT “double tongued”

“Since a deacon can be intimately involved in people’s lives, it is imperative that his speech be free from gossip and lies and be edifying and holy. He must in all circumstances control his tongue” (Van Dam)

= NOT “addicted to much wine”

= NOT “greedy for dishonest gain”

- **“holding the mystery of the faith”**

- **“tested”**