

DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE

Selectd Old & New Testament Scripture

In **Exodus 18** we see the prescription or antidote for the stressed prone.

- Moses is called to lead a group of people, that many have estimated to be over 1 million, out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.
- In **Exodus 18** we see Jethro, Moses' father in law, pays Moses a visit and brings with him Moses' wife and children.
- Moses gives Jethro a testimony about how God had delivered His people and Jethro comes to understand that the God of Moses is greater than any other God and evens makes an offering to Moses' God.
- So, Jethro gets up the next morning and goes with Moses to work.
- Exodus **18:13-16**.
- Exodus **18:17-18**.
- Exodus **18:19-23**.
- Exodus **18:24-27**.

So how do we go about ministering effectively to those who attend our Church Family?

As of today, we have 8 deacons and 2 yokefellows that are in training to become Deacons. These men and their wives are to join hands with this Pastor and his wife to minister to and lead this Church Family.

- **Proverbs 27:23 - *Know well the condition of your flocks, And pay attention to your herds.***

What are the qualities of these men and women that are our deacons and deaconesses?

- Why is it so important that we choose godly men and women to fill these roles in our Church Family?

The clearest definition from Scripture is found in **I Timothy 3:8-13** where 5 qualities are given for the position of deacon.

- **Grave** – serious (dignity) (**v8a**)
 - The deacon should be worthy of respect, his character should be worth imitating.
 - A deacon should use his office to edify the Church Family not just fill a space.

- *The measure of a man's greatness is not the number of servants he has, but the number of people he serves.* - John Hagee
- **Not doubled-tongued (v8b)**
 - He is not a gossip, he neither starts gossip or gets involved in it.
 - You can depend on what he says.
 - In **Acts 6** we see that the first deacons were chosen to handle a good old case of gossip.
 - **Acts 6:3** - Select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.
- **Not given to much wine (v8c)**
 - This a picture of a man who sits “long at the cup”.
 - **Ephesians 5:18**
 - Abe Lincoln said, “alcohol has many defenders, but has no defense.”
 - With so many defenders telling you why you should drink let me tell you that you should not drink. **Proverbs 23:31- 35** says to not even look at alcohol! How much stronger can you tell someone to stay away from something? God does not want you to drink.”
 - There is an old Chinese proverb that says: *First man takes a drink, and then drinks takes the man.*”
- **Not greedy or fond of sordid gain. (v8d)**
 - Our deacons oversee the collection of all our financial gifts that are given by our Church Family.
 - They are also to be faithful givers as a family.
 - These are men that can be trusted.
 - *Greed is not financial issue, it is a heart issue* – Andy Stanley
 - Greed will make you do some stupid stuff.
- **Doctrinally sound (v9)**
 - Mysteries – truth once hidden but now revealed by God.
 - They are to base their decisions on the counsel found in the Word of God.
 - We have By Laws & Constitution; the Scriptures were the Constitution of the early Church.
 - *“A deacon who does not know the Word of God cannot manage the affairs of the Church Family”* – Warren Wiersbe.
 - Rick Warren notes the mark of spiritual maturity occurs when a believer *“takes off the bib and puts on an apron.”* *Immature*

children wear bibs and expect others to meet their needs. Those who don aprons have learned the joy of serving others.” Which attire are you wearing?

Today we have a couple in our Church Family that have served faithfully in our Yokefellow Program and are now ready today to be ordained as deacon and deaconesses.

You as a Church Family:

- Pray for our deacons and their wives.
- Support them by joining hands with them to serve our Church Family.