

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SONOMA

Exalting Jesus through the preaching of His Word

Sundays at 10:30 AM · 542 First St E, Sonoma, CA

Deacons and the Women Who Serve

1 TIMOTHY 3:8–13

While pagan Rome fled the plague and abandoned its sick to die, Christians stayed to serve the dying — many at the cost of their own lives. They had learned it from their Master, who came “not to be served, but to serve.”

The deacon is the church’s ministry of service. The office belongs to a few; the calling to serve belongs to all.

1 What Is a Deacon?

- **Servant**, one who serves. The heart of every Christian, and also a distinct church office.
- Standing alongside the elders (**Philippians 1:1**), with its own qualifications (vv. 8–13). **OFFICE**
- Elders **shepherd and give oversight**; deacons **serve**, meeting practical, tangible needs.. **SERVE**
- Pattern **Acts 6** — godly, Spirit-filled men freeing the apostles for prayer and the Word. **ACTS 6**

2 The Six Marks of a Godly Deacon (vv. 8–10,12)

1. Serious	Worthy of respect
2. Sincere	Not double-tongued:
3. Sober	Self-controlled:
4. Sacrificial	Not greedy for dishonest gain:
5. Sound	Holds the faith with a clear conscience:
6. Scrutinized	Tested first, then serve:

3 Who Are the Women? (v. 11)

- Introduced by “likewise” — a distinct group held to their own qualifications.
- Three views: **(1)** women deacons, **(2)** wives of deacons, **(3)** women who serve with the deacons.
- The key observation: the men are **tested and installed** (v. 10); women are not.

CONCLUSION The Promise for Deacons (v. 13)

- **A good standing**: real weight and respect before God, not earthly rank.
- **Great faith**: a battle-tested faith in Christ, forged in real service and suffering.

TAKE IT HOME

- **All of us**: The office is for the few; the calling to serve is for all — you serve because you were bought (Mark 10:45).
- **Men**: Are you proven in the small, unseen things a servant is tested for (Luke 16:10)?
- **Still outside?** Come to the Servant-King who gave His life as a ransom — He will make you new!