**God’s Design for the Church (1 Timothy)**

**Servants: Official and Otherwise (1 Timothy 3:8-13) and (Acts 6:1-7)**

**Recap:**

* **Finish Chapter 1**
* **Finish Chapter 2**
* **Essential Qualities of Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-8): We should be challenged:**
  + **Cultivate Our Character**
  + **Pray for them**
  + **Pursue Ministry.**
* **1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7**
* **Why are we going through the qualifications of the office of Deacons if we do not have anyone in the church with the title of Deacon/Deaconess?**
* **Today let’s look at Servants: Official and Otherwise.**

1. **All Christians are servants.**
   1. **Christ is our Supreme Example of Servanthood.**
      1. **Matthew 20:26-28: It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**
      2. **Luke 22:27: For who is the greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? It is not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.**
   2. **Christlikeness means Serving**
      1. **John 13:14-17: If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.**
      2. **We all know these things. The question “Do we do them?” Do what? Wash the smelly feet. Do dirty servant jobs. Help people who may not be able to repay us. Such service is part and crucial of being a Christian. Everyone who knows Christ will be like Christ by acting like servants.**
   3. **Christ has Gifted some especially to Serve**
      1. **Helps (1 Cor 12:28) or Service (Romans 12:7)**
      2. **Thus while some Christians have the gift of serving and devote themselves in that area, all believers should be involved in a lifestyle of serving, because our Lord and Savior did not come to be served, but to serve and we are to be like him.**
      3. **Those with the gift of service are like the linemen on a football team. They don’t usually share the limelight with the Quarterback, but without their hard work and sacrifice, the Quarterback could not begin to do his job.**
2. **Qualities of Deacons/Deaconess (Team Leaders)**
   1. **Dignified: Should have seriousness of purpose about him/her so that those he serves sense that he is concerned for them and so they trust and respect him.**
   2. **Not Doubled-Tongued: He or She cannot be a man or woman who tells one person one thing, but another person the opposite to please everybody. Since the deacon/deaconess was involved in handling church finances, he/she need to be people of their word.**
   3. **Not addicted to much wine: Since wine was commonly served as a gesture of hospitality, it was important for a deacon, making rounds from house to house to exercise control or else he/she could become a drunkard.**
   4. **Not Greedy for Dishonest Gain: Since a deacon’s duties often involved the distribution of money and gifts to the needy, there was always the possibility for embezzlement. A deacon could not be a man who would pursue dishonest gain.**
   5. **Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience: Holding on to truth, especially the gospel. It points to that which once was hidden, but now has been revealed in Christ. A deacon must be a man conviction regarding the central truths of the Christian faith. In addition to sound doctrine, he must be sound in obedience (clear conscience).**
   6. **Temperate: Clearheaded, able to make sound judgments. It refers to someone who does not live by emotions, but by obedience to God’s Word.**
   7. **Faithful in All Things: Trustworthy, follow through on assigned tasks.**
   8. **Tested and found beyond reproach: Literally “not called to account.” This is to be determined by “testing,” which means that an individual observed track record before he/she is put in has a team leader. You don’t allow someone to lead and then test them to see if they are trustworthy. Test then first and then recognize them.**
   9. **A one-woman man: A person of moral purity. A person who is pure in thought and deed.**
   10. **Good Manager of his Children and Household: As in the case elder, the home is the proving ground for Team Leaders. If he fails there, don’t increase responsibility.**
   11. **Rewards for Deacons (Team Leaders)**
       1. **A High Standing: Good Standing in the church and God’s Sight.**
       2. **Great Confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus: Confidence before God and Man. A faithful servant can go boldly before the Lord in prayer, knowing that he/she is doing God’s will. Also, such a person can have a quiet confidence in dealing with people, knowing first hand the reality of the Christian Faith.**

**Conclusion:**

* **Application**

1. **Faith Servants always seek the interests of others before their own.**
2. **Faithful Servants willingly perform menial or despised tasks.**
3. **Faithful Servants are willing to serve in secret without applause.**
4. **Faithful Servants know and use their Gifts.**