

**CONNECTION QUESTION**

Did you have a chance to take a vacation someplace warm this winter? If so, where did you go? If not, where do you wish you went?

REVIEW

What is the difference between deacons and elders? Why are both important?

While the elder's focus should be primarily vertical in preaching, teaching and prayer; the focus of deacons should be primarily diagonal in caring for the needs of the church. These needs include operating the church, caring for the poor and serving people in need. Why is it important to have a group of people dedicated to caring for people needs? What are the people needs you envision in our church today? Why is it important to release elders and pastors from that responsibility as a church grows?

Both men and women serve as deacons. Why do you think it is important for both men and women to lead in this area?

While a deacon's focus is to provide leadership when it comes to serving, why is it important for them to also have basic spiritual competence?

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-10. Why are these qualities important for deacons. While all these qualities are important, if you had to rank them, what order would you put them? Why?



Read 1 Timothy 3:11. Why are these particular qualities important for women that serve as deacons (deaconesses)?

Read 1 Timothy 3:12. Why are these particular qualities important for men that serve as deacons?

Read 1 Timothy 3:13. What is the great reward for good deacons?

FURTHER STUDY

Read Luke 22:24-27. The word for *serve* in these verses is the word *deacon* (which literally means to serve). What does this teach us about the importance of serving in the church?

Read Ephesians 4:11-12. Should deacons do all the work or should they help organize the people of the church to work with them?

Read Philippians 2:3-8. What does Jesus teach through the model of his life about the attitude we should adopt when serving others?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. The word *serve* is the word *deacon* in these verses. Peter tells us God gives each of us different skills/abilities. Why does God give us these skills/abilities? Who empowers us as we use our skills/abilities? Who will we give an answer to for how we handled those skills/abilities?

In what way is God prompting you to be a better servant of others?

