

FBC Brandon Qualifications and Expectations of a Deacon

The highest honor a layman can receive is to be elected to the office of Deacon in his church. When one is so honored, there are certain duties and responsibilities he must assume if he is to be an effective and consecrated servant of his church and Lord as referred to in Acts 6:1-5.

Acts 6:1-5

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

I. Qualifications

A. Biblical

The Apostle Paul in I Timothy sets out certain qualifications, which we do well to review.

I Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives^[a] are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

B. First Baptist Brandon

A deacon at First Baptist Brandon must be a Christian for a minimum of three years and a member of First Baptist Brandon for a minimum of one year.

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II. Expectations

These are the specific duties that members of First Baptist Brandon and our pastor expect of their deacons.

A. Participation. The deacon is to be an energetic and enthusiastic supporter of the entire church program, attending and participating in all services of his church where time and energy will permit. He should be regular in his attendance of all worship services and should participate actively in the full program of the church. He should attend meetings of the deacons regularly and to the best of his ability handle the problems of the church in a business-like and efficient manner.

B. Stewardship. The deacon is to be a leader and set the example for other members of the church in the matter of stewardship. Certainly he should be most liberal with his time, energy and abilities, as well as his money, for the support of the Kingdom work. As a minimum, the tithe must be his goal.

C. Loyalty. The deacon must be loyal to his church, his pastor and his denomination. He must be firm in his faith, stable in his convictions, and sound in his belief. He must be grounded in the Scriptures and conversant with Baptist doctrine. This is not to say that other organizations (religious and otherwise) are wrong. It is to say that, as a deacon of First Baptist Church, his first loyalty is to his church.

D. Personal Habits. In the Scriptures given above, Paul is very specific concerning the matter of personal habits. A deacon is to take the lead as an example. He should maintain sobriety in his habits, integrity in his business, purity in his life-style, and Christian courtesy in his deportment toward all men. His witness must be good in business and social relationships, his personal behavior and habits always in Christian pattern.

E. Family Relations. The deacon should manage well his own house and exercise proper control over his children. Certainly the family life and relations of the deacon should be in keeping with the New Testament teachings. This is the only way he can claim the respect of his home and be honored and respected as a leader in his church.

F. Deacon Ministry Program. Our church has adopted the Deacon Ministry program for the deacons' service to our members. Each deacon is assigned to serve on one of the Deacon Ministry teams. At the regular September Deacon's meeting, deacons have the opportunity to select and rank their 3 preferred ministries. The new Chairman of the Deacons makes ministry team assignments based on this input and announces assignments at the regular October Deacon's Meeting. This ministry is a top priority of service for all of our deacons and each deacon is expected to accept this as a privilege and a duty to serve. See the attached description of the Deacon Ministry Program.

"The office of deacon is an office of consecrated service, and carries the ordination of the church."

We ask that you prayerfully consider this place of service in our church family ... joining hands and hearts with the other deacons, the pastor and staff members to do those things that God would have us do as a church to reach our community.