

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Timothy Bible Study — I Timothy 3:7-15 Lesson #6

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in First Timothy before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

7-9 Moreover he must have a **GOOD TESTIMONY** among **THOSE** who are **OUTSIDE**, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. **LIKEWISE DEACONS must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the MYSTERY of the FAITH with a pure CONSCIENCE.**

• **I Corinthians 5:9-12** “I wrote to you in my epistle (letter) not to keep company with _____ people. Yet I certainly did not mean the sexually immoral people of _____, or with the _____, or _____, or _____, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you _____ to _____ with anyone named a brother (calling themselves a Christian), who is a _____, or _____, or an _____, or a reviler, or a _____, or an _____ — not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those who are _____? Do you not judge those who are _____?”

Definition: “He must have a **GOOD TESTIMONY** among **THOSE** who are **OUTSIDE**” – This is referring to the qualifications for being a bishop or pastor, although it also applies to deacons. Having a **GOOD TESTIMONY** means that our behavior is righteous and holy, and that we do nothing that gives God a bad name. “Those who are outside” means **non-believers, those who are OUTSIDE of the church body.** Therefore, anyone who wants to be a pastor or bishop or deacon in the church **MUST have a good reputation** both outside and inside the church of Christ.

• **Romans 13:12-13** “The _____ is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of _____, and let us put on the armor of _____. Let us _____ properly, as in the day, not in revelry and _____, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy, but _____ the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

• **I Thessalonians 5:4-5** “But you, brethren, are not in _____, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of _____ and sons of the _____. We are not of the _____ nor of _____.”

• **Matthew 5:16** “Let your _____ so shine before _____, that they may _____ your _____ and glorify your _____ in heaven.”

• **I John 1:5-7** “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is _____ and in Him is no _____ at all. If we say that we have _____ with Him, and walk in _____, we _____ and do not practice the _____. But if we _____ in the _____ as He is in the _____, we have fellowship with one another, and the _____ of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from _____.”

• **Titus 3:8** "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have _____ in _____ should be careful to maintain _____ to _____." These things are _____ and profitable to _____."

• **Titus 2:7-8** "In all things _____ yourself to be a pattern of _____; in doctrine _____ integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that the one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having _____ evil to _____ about you."

• **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk _____ of the _____, fully _____ Him, being fruitful in every _____."

Definition: "LIKEWISE DEACONS" – The list of qualities and requirements for DEACONS is almost identical to that for elders or bishops, EXCEPT that they are not required to TEACH or PREACH (that is just for pastors/bishops). They must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. For DEACONS, it says they must be REVERENT, which is similar to the bishops being "temperate (self-controlled) and sober-minded". **Reverence is an attitude of deep respect and love for God, which would show itself in being sober-minded (serious, not flippant), respectful of others, and having self-control in your life. "Not double-tongued, not given to much wine (getting DRUNK), not greedy for money" - these things are obvious, and not being double-tongued means not LYING.** These are the same as the requirements for Bishops (see I Timothy 3:1-6). **For bishops, it says, "one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)". For deacons, it says, "ruling their children and their own houses well", which is basically the same.** Paul says, for both bishops and deacons, that if you can't even control your own children and family, how can you be expected to have a position of authority and control in the church? This is just common sense. **For bishops, it says, "not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation of the devil." A NOVICE is a new believer.** For deacons, it says they should be PROVED first, which means the church should observe how they live their life and serve in the church for a while, before giving any new believers a position of authority in the church. **To give a new, immature believer a position of authority too soon, it might "go to his head" and he would be filled with fleshly pride, such as the sin which caused the fall of Lucifer, who became Satan (see Isaiah 14:12-17). Lucifer's sin was PRIDE, that he wanted to BE God, to set his own throne ABOVE God's throne, and to receive worship for himself.**

• **Isaiah 14:12-17** "How you have _____ from _____, O Lucifer (Satan's original name), son of the morning! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you _____ in your _____, '_____ will ascend to heaven; _____ will _____ my _____ above the stars of God, and _____ will sit on the mount of the assembly in the recesses of the north. _____ will ascend above the heights of the clouds; _____ will make _____ like the Most High (God).'"

Definition: "Holding the MYSTERY of the FAITH with a pure CONSCIENCE" – The BIBLE definition of "mystery" is "something previously hidden or not known, that is now REVEALED by God." It does NOT mean what we call a mystery today, such as a crime-solving novel or TV show. So, this means there were some things that God did not reveal to the Old Testament saints, but He has now revealed to us in the New Testament.

• **Ephesians 1:9** "Having made _____ unto _____ the

_____ of His _____, according to His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself;”

• **Ephesians 3:3-5** “How that by _____ He made _____ to me the _____ (as I wrote before in a few words, by which, when you read, you may understand my _____ in the _____ of Christ), which in other ages was _____ made _____ to the sons of men, as it has _____ been _____ by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.”

• **Romans 16:25-26** “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the _____ of the _____ which was kept _____ since the world began, but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic scriptures has been made _____ to all nations...”

• **Colossians 1:26-27** “The _____ which has been _____ from ages and from generations, but now has been _____ to His _____.”

• **Luke 10:21** “In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, ‘I praise You, _____, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have _____ these things from the [worldly] wise and prudent and _____ them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed _____ in Your sight.’”

10-13 But **let these also first be proved; then let them serve as deacons**, being found blameless.

Likewise *their* WIVES must be REVERENT, not slanderers, temperate (self-controlled), FAITHFUL in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

• **I Timothy 3:2-6** “A bishop, then must be blameless, the _____ of one _____, _____ (self-controlled), _____-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who _____ his own _____ well, having his _____ in _____ with all _____ (for if a man does not know how to _____ his own _____, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with _____ he _____ into the _____ condemnation of the _____.”

Definition: “Likewise *their* WIVES must be REVERENT, not slanderers, temperate (self-controlled), FAITHFUL in all things” – The office of “deacon” in the Bible is NOT a teaching office, but merely of service. Bishops, elders, or pastors are the one who must be “able to teach”. The word “deacon” means servant. Deacons were first chosen in the early church for the purpose of serving food to the widows in the church (Acts 6:1-6). The original deacons were men, and still are in some cultures, because men are the ones who usually have authority over women in society. However, in our modern Western society, where women and men compete for the same jobs in the secular world, it is not so out of place for a woman to have some authority. This does not mean that the church should pattern itself after the world, but merely that **where the Bible does NOT specifically forbid women to be deacons, but just happens to mention men most often, it could be because of the way women were viewed in that time and place. So, the phrase “husbands of one wife” seems to mean men only, but the phrase “likewise their wives” in I Tim. 3:11 could also be translated “likewise women deacons” or “likewise deaconesses” - the word translated “wife” actually means “woman” and the word “their” is in Italics, which means it is not in**

the original Greek. What should you do if you are a woman and you're in a church or denomination that does not believe in having women deacons? The Lord sees your works and deeds, so **if you are doing the work of a deacon, but without the title**, leave it in God's hands, and He will reward you.

• **Acts 6:2-3** "Then the _____ summoned the multitude of the _____ and said, 'It is not desirable that we should _____ the _____ of _____ and _____ tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you _____ men of _____, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may _____ over this _____.'"

• **Romans 16:1** "I commend unto you _____ our _____, who is a servant (deacon) of the _____ which is at Cenchea."

14-15 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, **I write so that you may know HOW you OUGHT to CONDUCT YOURSELF in the HOUSE of GOD, which is the CHURCH of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.

• **Ephesians 1:22-23** "And has put all things under His feet, and gave _____ to be the _____ over all things to the _____, which is His _____, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

• **II Corinthians 6:15-16** "And what accord has _____ with Belial (the devil)? Or what part has a _____ with an unbeliever? For _____ are the _____ of the living _____. As God has said: 'I will _____ in them and _____ among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My _____.'"

Definition: "HOW you OUGHT to CONDUCT YOURSELF in the HOUSE of GOD, which is the CHURCH" – The church is called the BODY of Christ, also the "house of God". This means the church is more than just a human organization of people with similar beliefs or interests, **it is a spiritual house or temple of God and His Holy Spirit**. Paul is telling Timothy that people should BEHAVE in a reverent and godly manner when they are in the church body or congregation. **There are many things that we should NOT do, just because we are members of the Body of Christ**, but especially when we are together with other members of the body in a church gathering. **God also gives each one of us certain spiritual gifts, and He gives us instructions in His word of how we are to minister those gifts within the Body of Christ. God also promises us REWARDS in heaven for our good and faithful conduct (behavior) as members of the Body of Christ.**

• **I Corinthians 12:11 & 18** "But one and the same _____ works all these things, distributing to each one individually as _____ wills."

(Verse 18) "But now _____ has set the _____, each one of them, in the _____, just as _____ pleased."

• **I Thessalonians 4:3-7** "For this is the _____ of _____, your sanctification: that you should abstain from _____; that each of you should know how to _____ (keep) his own vessel (body) in _____ and _____, not in _____ and _____, like the Gentiles who _____ God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the _____ of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to _____, but in _____."

• **I Corinthians 6:18-20** "Flee sexual immorality (fornication). Every _____ that a man does is _____ the _____, but he who commits _____"

_____ sins against his own _____. Or do you not know that your
_____ is the _____ of the _____ who is in
you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were
_____ with a _____; therefore _____ in
your _____ and in your _____, which are God's."

• **Matthew 25:21** "His _____ said to him, '_____ done, _____ and
_____ servant; you were _____ over a _____ things, I will
make you _____ over _____ things. _____ into the _____ of your
_____.'"