

How to Take the Right Decision Part 13

“8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. 14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Timothy 3:8-16 KJV)

For taking the right decision the other category that the church needs to raise up is the category of deacons who will be helping in the administrative work in God’s church and ministries. *Diacons will assist to supervise work, and to be entrusted with certain administrative, logistics, distributive and charity services, and for such work they needed to be chosen according to certain Godly requirements not lower than the bishops because their attitudes and behaviors are important for the wellbeing of the congregations and the ministries of God, and their reputation is important for the outsiders, and their good examples are good models for others to take the right decision and make correct choices.*

Therefore and in the same way: *“8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.” (1 Timothy 3:8 KJV)*

1. *“the deacons be grave”*: It means to be sincere, serious and purposeful to their tasks. This is important because the deacon is occupying an important administrative office and ministry in the church.

2. *“not doubletongued”*: It means what he will speak that he will do. It means also that he will not change of what he said in order to please his audience; for example he will speak different things to different parties for the same issue.

3. *“not given to much wine”*: Why not to drink wine? Because wine impairs the health, makes the mind stupid, and the person will be unable to take the right decision, and so makes the person unfit for such office, as well as wastes the finances and the materials of the church and leads to poverty, *“He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.” (Proverbs 21:17 KJV)* Drinking wine makes the person take wrong decisions and wrong steps, drinking wine is worldliness and friendship with the world and that is enmity towards God.

4. *“Not greedy of filthy lucre”*: Those who serve God cannot serve money or be lovers of money: *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and*

mammon.” (Matthew 6:24 KJV) *“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Luke 16:13 KJV)*

“9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.” (1 Timothy 3:9 KJV)

5. *“Holding the mystery of the faith”*: The doctrine of the Gospel, is called *“the faith”*, and it comes by believing in Christ; without Christ there is no faith. It is called *“the mystery”*, because it is of divine revelation that could never be discovered by human reason; but now it is revealed by God. The mystery of the faith or the mystery of the gospel contains several mysterious doctrines, such as the doctrine of the Trinity; the incarnation of the Son of God, our union to Christ, and our communion with Him, the resurrection of the dead, and others. * Now this mysterious doctrine of faith is to be held by deacons; they are to profess it, and to hold fast that profession *“in a pure conscience”* sprinkled by the blood of Christ, with good conscience towards God; without sin, with a blameless life, with Christ’s characters and attitudes so that they will be fit and they will be able to instruct others especially those who are weak in the faith, and refute those in error. * But if their principles and practices are bad, then their influences on others will be very harmful and fatal; that is why the deacons they should not be worldly and lovers of material things or lovers of money.

“10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.” (1 Timothy 3:10 KJV) The deacons needed first to be proved and checked if they possess all these criteria, then allow them to occupy the office and serve God if they found blameless and nothing wrong found against them. If not then they should not be given an office for service. Why? Because, *first*, they will do mistakes, *second*. It will be more difficult to take them out of the office.

6. *“11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.” (1 Timothy 3:11 KJV)* Also their wives need to be checked. They needed to be:

A. *“grave”*: It means to be sincere, and serious; they needed to be fully aware what the importance of the office of deacons that their husbands are occupying and how important is their discipline as wives because the deacon is occupying an important administrative office and ministry in the church. Their wives need to be good steward to the resources in the house, obedient to the Word of God and to be a good example to others as being submissive to their husbands, so God’s Word will not be blasphemed. *“4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” (Titus 2:4-5 KJV)*

B. *“not slanderers”*: They should not speak and spread rumors, lies, and stories against others, and they should know how to control and keep their tongues and not to expose important information and secrets of others that they should not tell.

C. *“sober”*: It means to be clear headed, restrained and temperate, and aware how to manage critical situations with patience and perseverance in prayers and waiting upon God to solve issues and open doors for relief. They need to bear the pressure of the ministry with their husbands and they should comfort them and to continue to encourage them to go on.

D. “faithful in all things”: They needed to be faithful to God, faithful to their families, faithful to their husbands, faithful in prayer and faithful to the church and the ministry that was entrusted to their husbands.

“12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.” (1 Timothy 3:12 KJV)

7. “Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife”: Deacons should have one wife only. There is no way for polygamy and no way for divorce and remarriage. Those who would follow God they ought to be good example to others in this matter. The world is full of polygamies, divorces and remarriages, therefore those who serve God should be cleared from such sin so they can lead others out of it.

8. “ruling their children and their own houses well”: Deacons should know how to rule their families and lead them into obedient life in the fear of the Lord. They should manage their houses well financially and strategically into the whole will of God and in accordance to the good plan that God had for them. Even to their children they should lead each and every one of them in the plan of God that the Lord has for each one of them.

“13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3:13 KJV)

Why all such the above criteria needed to be found in the life of those who want to be deacons to help in the administration of the church and the ministries of the Lord?

A. Because they “well purchase to themselves a good degree”: They had purchase, so it means that they need to pay for the good degree and the good office that they desired to serve Christ with. **Since they are to be good examples to others then they need to pay good sacrifices and live in discipline and in holiness to be good examples to others.**

B. And great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus: Boldness in faith it means that they need to obey and be good examples to others, and not to compromise, so that they can impart the faith and disciple others and discipline them with God’s Word.

“14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly.” (1 Timothy 3:14 KJV) Paul was telling Timothy that he will come to him with in short period of time. But Paul wrote those things to Timothy so he can understand facts and the works that he needed to achieve because Paul may delay in coming. **“15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15 KJV)** In such circumstances Timothy will be prepared and ready to manage how people in the house of God, which is the church of God, the pillar and the ground of the truth ought to conduct themselves. **Again, the people who have the position to lead need to be highly disciplined and be good examples to others.**

“16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16 KJV)

“Great is the mystery of godliness”: God came down from Heaven, humbled himself, incarnated and became a man, born from virgin, Jesus Christ, our Lord, lived as man but He did not sin, was put to death for our sins, was buried, raised from the death on the third day by the Holy Spirit, raised from the death because he was without sin, justified by the Holy Spirit that raised Him up, seen by angels, ascended to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit that helps he church, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit, to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and to all sinners, **“believed on in the world”**, through Jesus’ work on the cross.

What means by **“Seen of angels”**, that Christ was seen by angels at the following occasions:

1. At His birth, when the angels descended and sang praises to God on that account.
2. In the wilderness, after he had been tempted by Satan, when angels ministered unto him.
3. In the garden of Gethsemane upon his agony and sweat there, when one angel appeared and strengthened Him.
4. At his resurrection from the dead, one of the angels rolled away the stone from the sepulcher, and told the women that He was raised from the dead.
5. At His ascension to Heaven, when the angels attended Him in triumph;
6. And now in Heaven, where angels wait upon Him, and worship Him,

Angels are ministering spirits, sent forth by Him to do His pleasure and to serve those, we, who are saved.

My dear and beloved: With all such description to the office of deacon, how much we as servants of Christ need to follow the example of Christ, and live as good testimony for Christ and to do what is right, that people will know Christ through our lives. Being good example to others then you are the one to help them to take the right decisions to follow God and to do His will.

Come now to the Lord giving Him your life and be willing to repent of your sins and work with Christ to work out the criteria that you lack in your life, to be good example to others and to help them to take the right decision in their lives. Come to the Lord so He will use you to serve Him and to help others to follow Him and to take right decision in life.

Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching and the admonition that I received from this message. Lord thank you for explaining to me your ways and how you want me to be and the characters that I need to possess in order that I can serve you and serve your people in your church in a better way.*

Confess now your sins and renounce them. Confess your bad attitude, being easily get angry, impatience, and having easily fights with others. Confess and renounce your compromises, flatteries, telling lies, and having doubled standards. Confess and renounce your lust and immoralities. Confess your worldliness, your greed and your love for money. Confess and renounce that you are not disciplinarian to your children and you are not putting your house in order. Renounce your bad habits of smoking and drinking. Renounce your bad

stewardship, your laziness, and spending your resources in a not correct way. Renounce your reluctance to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to the teachings that I received from your Word. Lord I am willing to correct the following bad attitudes in me _____. Lord I will work out to discipline my children and to put my house in order. Lord I commit myself to set good example so others may see and be willing to follow Christ. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, faith, perseverance, long-suffering and self-control, that people may see Christ in me. Lord I commit myself to go on and serve you to accomplish the good plan and the ministry that you entrusted to me. Lord I commit myself to the teaching against divorce and remarriage. Lord I commit myself to be diligent to serve you and to apply your Word in my life and ministry.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and came back to you committing themselves to the teaching that we received today in this message. Lord uphold them with your grace and mercy, provide for them, protect them, use them to serve you and lead them to the ministry that you had called them to do for you.

Lord we pray as a church to bless us in raising new workers who are willing to apply your Word in this message in their lives. Lord give us wisdom and discernment in order to go on and do your work and your will. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless and fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

How to Take the Right Decision Part 13. 1 Timothy 3:8-16. Proverbs 21:17. Matthew 6:24. Luke 16:13. Titus 2:4-5.

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