

# Deacon Qualifications

*“Be imitators of God . . . among you there must not be even a hint of any kind of impurity . . . be very careful how you live . . . be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:1, 3, 15,18)* It is clear as we investigate this text from Ephesians, that Paul was writing to strengthen and confirm the believers in the grace and gospel of Christ, as well as to encourage them in performing their works of service and holiness in response to God's saving grace, that we might not grieve the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul reminds us that *“we were once darkness, but now we are light.”* It further instructs us to *“live as children of light” (v-8).*

As overseers of our Savior's church, it is incumbent on the leader of this church body and the deacon body to be diligent in the process of qualifying candidates for the purpose of deacon servanthood. From these inspired words, Paul is challenging us to honor Christ in everything we do. It is therefore our responsibility to strive and seek to please God in every area of service to His church and to ensure that those who might serve in the fellowship of deacons be shining examples of the person that Paul is describing in this passage.

As a servant leader of Mobberly Baptist Church, the deacon holds the conviction that he must live a life above reproach for the glory of God and the advance of His kingdom.

## Deacon Qualifications

### Biblical Requirements

- Be of good reputation – Acts 6:3
- Be full of the Holy Spirit – Acts 6:3,5
- Be full of wisdom – Acts 6:3
- Be full of faith – Acts 6:5
- Fulfill the ministry of service so the word of God will not be neglected – Acts 6:1-4
- Be a man of dignity and character as exemplified by the Pastor described in 1 Tim 3:1-7
  - ▶ Not be double tongued – 1 Tim 3:8
  - ▶ Not be addicted to much wine – 1 Tim 3:8
  - ▶ Not be greedy for dishonest gain – 1 Tim 3:8
  - ▶ First be tested; he may serve if found blameless – 1 Tim 3:10
  - ▶ Be a good manager of his children and his own household – 1 Tim 3:12
  - ▶ Holds to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience – 1 Tim 3:9
  - ▶ Be the husband of one wife – 1 Tim 3:12 *he may not be divorced or married to a divorced woman.*  
*A man who has never been married or whose wife is deceased is eligible to serve.*
- The Deacon's wife must likewise: I Tim 3:11
  - ▶ Be dignified
  - ▶ Be sober minded
  - ▶ Not be a slanderer
  - ▶ Be faithful in all things

### Church Requirements:

- Meet all Biblical requirements
- A worthy example to those within and outside the church, living an exemplary life, and supporting the ministry of the church in work, spirit, and cooperation.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom.
- Practices storehouse tithing
- Has a healthy view of the home, a complete break with pagan standards and a commitment to the sanctity of marriage. A Deacon is should be the husband of one wife. A man who has never been married or whose wife is deceased would be eligible to serve as a deacon.
- Member of Mobberly for at least one year

### Calling:

- His wife and family are supportive of the calling of the man to serve as a Deacon
- Clearly senses God's call to be ordained (commissioned) in this permanent capacity
- Willing to be trained as a Deacon in Training for one year prior to being approved by the church and willing to serve:
  - Church's current personal evangelism training course
  - Periodic Deacon training classes (some classes will include wives)

# Deacon Roles and Responsibilities

## Role of the Deacon

The expectation of the Deacon is simple yet demanding - service to Mobberly so the ministry of the Word by our Pastors and Ministers is not neglected. Acts 6:1-6 describes the first Deacons, men of God who waited tables so the Apostles would not be distracted from shepherding the church effectively. The Deacon is charged with ministering to the needs of the church.

The Deacons are not a governing body for the Church, Pastors, Ministers or Church Staff. When Deacons fulfill their Biblical role, they are worthy of trust and held in high regard for their wisdom and service. As such, the Deacon Body is called upon to confirm and support direction God provides through the Pastor so the Church functions properly and His people grow in all aspects. (Eph 4:11-16)

## Responsibilities of the Deacon

- Prays daily for Mobberly's people, Pastor, Ministers, Staff and for God's kingdom to come
- Sets a good example by regular attendance of meetings of the church and its organizations  
*Each Committee and Ministry Team at Mobberly requires at least one Deacon in its membership*
- Routinely participates in Everyday Faith evangelism (Fall and Spring semesters)
- "Deacon of the Week" (typically once per quarter)
  - Prays with the Pastor prior to morning worship services and prays during assemblies as requested
  - He and his wife serve in the "Boiler Room" prayer ministry during worship service
  - Assists the Pastor with special needs on Sunday – hospital visits, substitute teaching, others.
  - He and his wife visit prospects and new and homebound members and report to the Pastor

*In order to maintain active status, a Deacon must serve in this ministry*

- Drives buses and vans to pick up special ministries and homebound for Sunday worship services (typically once per quarter)
- Participates in the Mobberly Prayer Ministry as requested
- Administers the Lord's Supper (once per quarter)
- Actively participates in Deacon meetings (once per quarter and occasional "called" meetings)  
*A Deacon missing three consecutive meetings will be notified that he is being placed on inactive status as a Deacon in Reserve. A Deacon facing unexpected temporary medical, family or job-related issues which prevent him from actively serving, but who otherwise would be willing to serve, may request to be made a Deacon in Reserve for a specified period of time. A Deacon in Reserve may request consideration for reinstatement through the Chairman of Deacons based on the circumstances disclosed by the inactive Deacon. Reinstatement may require re-qualification through the Mobberly Deacon in Training Selection Process in the same manner as a newly recommended Deacon candidate. Deacons in Reserve are excluded from the voting process.*
- Takes part in ordination services for Deacons and Ministers (occasional)
- Helps in other ministries to assist the Church  
*Service is what the Deacon is all about – teaching a Small Group, assisting with Men's, Youth, Children's, or Choir ministries, . . . the list goes on. Serve where God has uniquely called you.*