

God's Special Servants
I Timothy 3:8-13

Introduction:

- A. There are many exciting days in the life of a local congregation (ex: when someone obeys the Gospel, when someone places membership, when someone repents of their sins, etc.).
- B. This morning we get to experience one of those exciting days. At the close of our service, the shepherds will officially welcome three men as our newest deacons here at Walter Hill.
- C. Before we do that, let's think about and answer this question, "What is the role of a deacon?"

Deacons are Special Servants

- A. The English word deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, meaning, "a servant, minister, attendant or waiter.
- B. This word can be used in a generic sense that applies to all Christians (Matt. 20:26; 23:11; I Cor. 3:5) or in a more specific sense that applies to the office of deacons (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8-13).
- C. Throughout Scripture, we see God using special roles for different areas of service (ex: Levites, priests, men, women, elders and deacons).

Deacons have Special Qualifications

- A. We can all be servants in the Lord's church and we should be, but we cannot all be deacons.
- B. God has very specific qualifications for the men who are to serve as deacons (I Tim. 3:8-13).
- C. A congregation should never rush men into this role who are unqualified (I Tim. 5:22).

Deacons have Special Roles

- A. While deacons roles are much different than that of the elders, deacons still serve an important role within the church.
- B. We get a glimpse of the role of deacons from the early church, even though the office of deacon is not specially mentioned (Acts 6:1-7). This action by the apostles helped the church to grow (Acts 6:6-7).
- C. We need to support our deacons as they work to fulfill the roles they have been given.

Conclusion:

- A. May we as a congregation do our part to help train men for this important work in the Lord's church.
- B. This morning is a wonderful day at Walter Hill as we add three more men to serve as deacons.
- C. Let's be praying for these men and their families as they work to help us serve the Lord in our community.