THE QUESTION

What qualifications did the early church require for deacons?

Asked by a THF member on August 25, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 16 early Christian passages and 158 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-qualifications-did-the-early-church-require-for-deacons

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Early writers expected deacons to be blameless, honest, gentle, not double-tongued, not lovers of money, and self-controlled. They were to be proven first, married only once, humble toward their bishop, and eager to serve the needy as Christ served. Their life had to give no cause for accusation.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

Honest, not greedy, and self-controlled

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Polycarp gives a short list for deacons that follows Paul closely: no slander, no double talk, no love of money. He adds that they must be self-controlled, kind and hard-working, living by the truth of the Lord who served everyone.

1 “They must not be slanderers, double-tongued, or lovers of money, but must be temperate in all things, compassionate, industrious, and live according to the truth of the Lord, who was the servant of all.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Gentle, truthful, and tested before serving

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache tells churches to choose bishops and deacons who are worthy of the Lord. It names gentleness, freedom from greed, truthfulness, and being proven as the marks to look for.

2 “Therefore, appoint for yourselves bishops and deacons who are worthy of the Lord: men who are gentle, not lovers of money, truthful, and proven.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

The apostles proved men before appointing them

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Rome says the apostles chose their first converts as bishops and deacons only after first testing them by the Spirit. Testing a man before giving him the office was part of the church's order from the start.

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3 “Thus, preaching through countries and cities, they appointed the first-fruits of their labors, having first proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons of those who would later believe.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 16, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Married once and ruling his home well

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen repeats Paul's rule that deacons be husbands of one wife who manage their children and homes well. He notes that Paul did not allow men married a second time to be appointed to church office, and he treats this rule as a serious one.

4 “And about deacons he says, "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 8, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Blameless and free of any accusation

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius says deacons serve the church of God, not just meals, so they must avoid any reason for blame as they would avoid fire. The Apostolic Constitutions say deacons must be as spotless as the bishop, and even more active.

5 “For they are not ministers of food and drink, but servants of the Church of God. They are therefore bound to avoid any grounds of accusation against them, as they would avoid fire.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Trallians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 3, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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6 “Let the deacons be unblemished in all things, just as the bishop himself must be, but more active.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Source 11, page 6** Read it in the library ›
Apostolic Constitutions (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Ready to serve the needy like Christ

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions say deacons must never be ashamed to help those in need. They point to Christ, who came to serve and gave his life, as the pattern a deacon follows.

7 “But let them not be ashamed to minister to those who are in need, since even our Lord Jesus Christ came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 11, page 6** Read it in the library ›
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Pure in service and humble toward pastors

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Commodianus tells deacons to carry out their ministry with purity and to bow to their pastors. Cyprian warns that a deacon who proudly defies his bishop must repent and show full humility. Humility and order were part of being fit for the office.

8 “Deacons, carry out the mystery of Christ with purity. Therefore, ministers, do what your Master commands.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Commodianus,** *Writings* **Source 15, page 6** Read it in the library ›
(c. 250–300 AD)
THF's updated English

9 “Therefore, the deacon about whom you wrote ought to repent of his audacity, acknowledge the honor of the priest, and satisfy the bishop set over him with full humility.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›
(c. 248–258 AD)
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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages describe a deacon's character and conduct; they do not give a minimum age or a full ordination process.
- One passage mentions a deaconess who cares for women, but these passages do not spell out her qualifications.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 16 early Christian passages and 158 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–16, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 17–112, in Bible order), then 62 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *16 passages from 10 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “appoint for yourselves bishops and deacons worthy of the Lord, men meek, and not lovers of money, 1 Timothy 3:4 and truthful and proven… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 2*

2 *Shepherd* (on point 5) Those square white stones that fit exactly together are apostles, bishops, teachers, and deacons. They have lived in godly purity, and they have served as bishops, teachers, and deacons in… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Epistle to the Trallians* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “is fitting also that the deacons, as being [the ministers] of the mysteries of Jesus Christ, should in every respect be pleasing to all… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 5) reveals who is to lead you. For "I am now ready to be offered," that I "may win Christ." Let the deacons understand the dignity of their position and strive… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 7) make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Presbyters, be subject to the bishop; deacons, to the presbyters; and you, the people, to the presbyters and the deacons… [continues online] **read ›**

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Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 6*

6 *Epistle to the Philippians* **Quote 1, page 2** "mocked," we ought to live worthy of His commandment and glory. Similarly, the deacons should be blameless before His righteousness, as they are the servants of God and Christ, not… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 7*

7 *On Monogamy* 8 (1885 English; on point 4) "man just and circumspect, and of course no digamist, (which is plain) even (from this consideration), lest (otherwise) Christ should presently be more worthily preached by a woman, an aged… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 8*

8 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "any one is blameless, the husband of one wife, having children, that believe Titus 1:5-6 — of course — and so on… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 9–10*

9 *Epistles* **Quote 9, page 4** "But deacons ought to remember that the Lord chose apostles, that is, bishops and overseers… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Epistles* (on point 7) you complained about your deacon. Forgetting your priestly position, and not mindful of his own office and ministry, he had provoked you by his insults and injuries. You have indeed… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 11–14*

11 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quotes 6, 7, page 4** "Let the deacons be in all things unspotted, as the bishop himself is to be, only more active… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) have already said, that a bishop, a presbyter, and a deacon, when they are constituted, must be but once married, whether their wives be alive or whether they be dead… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) "the presbyter is only to teach, to offer, to baptize, to bless the people, and the deacon is to minister to the bishop, and to the presbyters, that is, to… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) now the deacon is to you what Aaron was, and the bishop what Moses was. If, therefore, Moses was called a god by the Lord, let the bishop be honored… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 15*

15 *Writings* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "the mystery of Christ, O deacons, with purity… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 16*

16 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 3, page 3** the first-fruits of their labors, having first proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons of those who would later believe. Nor was this a new thing… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *96 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

17 **Genesis 2:24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. **read ›**

18 **Genesis 23:6** rather, hear us. You are a king from God among us. Bury your dead in our choicest tombs, for none of us will by any means withhold his tomb from you, to keep you from burying your dead there." **read ›**

19 **Genesis 23:9** Let him give me the double cave that he has, which is in a part of his field. For the silver it is worth, give it to me among you as a possession for a tomb." **read ›**

20 **Exodus 5:9** Let the works of these men be made heavy, and let them be concerned with these things, and not be concerned with empty words." **read ›**

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21 **Exodus 18:21** And you yourself select able men from all the people, God-fearing, righteous men who hate arrogance, and set them over the people as captains of thousands, captains of hundreds, captains of fifties, and captains of tens. **read ›**

22 **Exodus 29:1** This is what you shall do for them: you shall sanctify them, so that they may serve me as priests. You shall take one young calf from the herd and two unblemished rams, **read ›**

23 **Leviticus 21:14** A widow, a woman cast out, a profaned woman, or a prostitute, these he shall not take; but he shall take as his wife a virgin of his own people. **read ›**

24 **Numbers 4:23** From twenty-five years old and upward to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who goes in to minister, to do his works in the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

25 **Numbers 4:35** from twenty-five years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who goes in to minister and to work in the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

26 **Numbers 8:24** “This is what concerns the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall go in to work in the tabernacle of witness; **read ›**

27 **Numbers 11:34** So the name of that place was called Graves of Craving, because there they buried the people who craved. **read ›**

28 **Numbers 27:16** “Let the Lord God of the spirits and of all flesh select a man over this congregation, **read ›**

29 **Numbers 30:9** The vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, whatever she vows concerning her soul, shall remain on her. (Septuagint Numbers 30:10 (Numbers 30:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

30 **Deuteronomy 17:6** On the word of two witnesses or of three witnesses he shall die; the one who is to die shall not die on the word of one witness. **read ›**

31 **Deuteronomy 18:5** For the Lord has chosen him out of all your tribes, to stand before the Lord God, to minister and to bless in his name, he and his sons among the children of Israel. **read ›**

32 **Deuteronomy 18:7** he shall minister to the name of the Lord his God, like all his brothers the Levites who stand there before the Lord your God. **read ›**

33 **Deuteronomy 20:7** And what man is there who has become engaged to a woman and has not taken her? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the war and another man take her.” **read ›**

34 **Deuteronomy 24:5** If a man has newly taken a wife, he shall not go out to war, and no duty shall be laid on him; he shall be free at home for one year and shall cheer the wife whom he has taken. **read ›**

35 **Judges 4:4** Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. **read ›**

36 **Judges 18:19** They said to him, “Be quiet; put your hand over your mouth, and come with us, and be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and a house, to a clan in Israel?” **read ›**

37 **Judges 21:16** Then the elders of the congregation said, “What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since the women have been destroyed out of Benjamin?” **read ›**

38 **1 Chronicles 9:13** and their brothers, heads of the houses of their families, one thousand seven hundred and sixty, mighty men of valor for the work of the service of the house of God. **read ›**

39 **1 Chronicles 9:21** Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was gatekeeper of the door of the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

40 **1 Chronicles 9:27** for the charge was theirs; and they were over the keys, to open the doors of the temple morning by morning. **read ›**

41 **1 Chronicles 23:28** for he appointed them at the side of Aaron, to minister in the house of the Lord, over the courts, and over the chambers, and over the purification of all the holy things, and over the works of the service of the house of God; **read ›**

42 **2 Chronicles 31:16** besides the offspring of the males from three years old and upward, to every one who entered the house of the Lord, by a daily account, for ministry in the daily courses of their arrangement. **read ›**

43 **Ezra 7:2** the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, **read ›**

44 **Nehemiah 7:19** The sons of Bigvai, two thousand and sixty-seven. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 17:19 (Nehemiah 7:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

45 **Psalms 5:9** For there is no truth in their mouth; their heart is vain; their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have dealt deceitfully. (Septuagint Psalm 5:10 (Psalm 5:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

46 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

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47 **Ecclesiastes 5:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

48 **Jeremiah 5:10** Go up upon her battlements and tear them down, but do not make a full end; leave her supports, for they are the Lord's. **read ›**

49 **Jeremiah 14:2** Judea has mourned, and her gates have been emptied, and they are darkened on the ground, and the cry of Jerusalem has gone up. **read ›**

50 **Ezekiel 6:10** And they shall know that I the Lord have spoken. **read ›**

51 **Daniel 3:4** And the herald cried aloud, "O peoples, tribes, and languages, to you it is commanded: **read ›**

52 **Daniel 5:18** O king. God Most High gave the kingdom and the majesty and the honor and the glory to Nebuchadnezzar your father; **read ›**

53 **Daniel 11:13** And the king of the north shall return and bring a multitude greater than the first; and at the end of the times of years an invasion shall come with a great army and with many possessions. **read ›**

54 **Daniel 11:16** And he who comes in against him shall do according to his will, and there is no one standing before him; and he shall stand in the land of Sabi, and it shall be consumed by his hand. **read ›**

55 **Amos 3:14** For in the day when I avenge the ungodly deeds of Israel upon him, I will also take vengeance on the altars of Bethel; and the horns of the altar shall be broken off, and they shall fall to the ground. **read ›**

56 **1 Esdras 5:39** When the record of the descent of these men was sought in the register and was not found, they were excluded from serving as priests. **read ›**

57 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

58 **1 Esdras 7:2** supervised the holy works very carefully, working together with the elders of the Jews and the temple officials. **read ›**

59 **1 Esdras 8:46** commanding them to speak to Loddaeus and his brothers and the treasurers at that place, to send us men to serve as priests in the house of our Lord. **read ›**

60 **1 Esdras 8:59** Keep watch and guard them until you deliver them to the chiefs of the priests and the Levites and to the leaders of the families of Israel in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of our God." **read ›**

61 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:14** And blessed is the eunuch who has done no lawless deed with his hand, nor devised evil things against the Lord; for to him will be given the choice grace of faith, and a more delightful lot in the temple of the Lord. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:9** Do not winnow in every wind, and do not walk on every path; so does the double-tongued sinner. **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:14** Do not be called a gossip, and do not lie in ambush with your tongue; for shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double-tongued. **read ›**

64 **Wisdom of Sirach 9:12** Do not take pleasure in what pleases the ungodly; remember that until Hades they shall certainly not be acquitted. **read ›**

65 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:20** Among brothers their leader is honored, and those who fear the Lord in his eyes. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:12** Remember that death will not delay, and the covenant of Hades has not been shown to you. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:1** In three things I was made beautiful, and I stood up in beauty before the Lord and men: harmony among brothers, and friendship among neighbors, and a wife and husband who suit each other. **read ›**

68 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:8** blessed is he who lives with a wife of understanding, and he who has not slipped with his tongue, and he who has not served one unworthy of him; **read ›**

69 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:1** Blessed is the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled. **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:2** A courageous wife gladdens her husband, and she will fill out his years in peace. **read ›**

71 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:3** A good wife is a good portion; she will be given among the portion of those who fear the Lord. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:13** Curse the gossip and the double-tongued, for they have destroyed many who were at peace. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:21** Its death is an evil death, and Hades is better than it. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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75 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:29** He who acquires a wife begins a possession, a helper suited to him and a pillar of rest. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:19** Children and the building of a city establish a name, but above both a blameless wife is reckoned. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:18** of a trespass before a judge and a ruler, of lawlessness before a congregation and a people, of unrighteousness before a partner and a friend, and of theft before the place where you live; **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:10** in her virginity, lest she be defiled and become pregnant in her father's house; when with a husband, lest she transgress, and when married, lest she be barren. **read ›**

79 **Baruch 3:11** that you are counted with those in Hades? **read ›**

80 **Susanna 1:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **1 Maccabees 4:42** He chose unblemished priests, devoted to the law; **read ›**

82 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

83 **1 Maccabees 14:38** And King Demetrius confirmed him in the high priesthood accordingly, **read ›**

84 **2 Maccabees 14:25** Nicanor urged Judas to marry and have children; Judas married, settled down, and shared in the common life. **read ›**

85 **2 Maccabees 15:12** What he saw was this: Onias, who had been high priest, a noble and good man, modest in bearing, gentle in manner, fitting in his speech, and trained from childhood in all that belongs to virtue—he was stretching out his hands and praying for the whole body of the Jews. **read ›**

86 **4 Maccabees 12:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

87 **1 Enoch 98:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **Luke 20:47** who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation." **read ›**

89 **John 2:16** To those who sold the doves, he said, "Take these things out of here! Do not make my Father's house a marketplace!" **read ›**

90 **Acts 6:2** The twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not appropriate for us to forsake the word of God and serve tables. **read ›**

91 **Acts 6:3** Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this work. **read ›**

92 **Acts 8:19** saying, "Give me this authority too, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." **read ›**

93 **Acts 9:14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." **read ›**

94 **Romans 16:18** For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent. **read ›**

95 **1 Corinthians 3:11** For no one can lay another foundation besides the one laid, which is Jesus Christ. **read ›**

96 **Philippians 1:4** always, in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, **read ›**

97 **Colossians 1:2** to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **read ›**

98 **1 Thessalonians 2:5** For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, or with a pretext for greed—God is witness— **read ›**

99 **1 Timothy 3:1** The saying is trustworthy: if anyone aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a good work. **read ›**

100 **1 Timothy 3:2** The bishop therefore must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, orderly, hospitable, able to teach; **read ›**

101 **1 Timothy 3:4** one who rules his own house well, having children in subjection with all reverence; **read ›**

102 **1 Timothy 3:7** He must also have a good testimony from outsiders, so that he does not fall into reproach and the devil's trap. **read ›**

103 **1 Timothy 3:8** Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for shameful gain, **read ›**

104 **1 Timothy 3:10** Let them also first be tested; then let them serve if they are blameless. **read ›**

105 **1 Timothy 3:11** Women likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. **read ›**

106 **1 Timothy 3:12** Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. **read ›**

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107 **1 Timothy 3:13** For those who have served well gain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in faithfulness in Christ Jesus. **read ›**

108 **1 Timothy 5:7** Also command these things, that they may be without reproach. **read ›**

109 **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching. **read ›**

110 **Titus 1:6** provided a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of reckless living and are not insubordinate. **read ›**

111 **Titus 1:7** For a bishop must be blameless as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain, **read ›**

112 **Titus 2:5** to be sober-minded, pure, keepers of the home, good, subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God may not be blasphemed. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *62 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Isaiah 60:17 · 63:3

Matthew 5:6 · 10:5 · 11:9 · 11:19 · 16:13 · 17:1 · 18:1 · 19:12 · 19:13 · 20:26 · 20:28 · 23:1 · 27:55

Mark 1:29 · 7:9 · 9:2 · 10:13 · 10:43

Luke 1:17 · 7:26 · 7:34 · 8:1 · 9:28 · 10:16 · 11:23 · 12:47 · 12:50

John 2:1 · 4:16 · 13:4 · 15:13 · 20:22

Acts 1:8

Romans 13:14

1 Corinthians 6:9 · 6:10 · 9:1 · 9:25 · 15:6

Galatians 3:27 · 5:16 · 6:1 · 6:7

Ephesians 2:20 · 4:2 · 4:11

Philippians 1:18 · 1:27 · 2:2 · 3:16 · 4:8

1 Timothy 5:9

2 Timothy 2:12 · 4:6

Hebrews 6:6 · 13:17

1 Peter 2:5 · 2:11 · 5:2

1 John 2:27

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What qualifications did the early church require for deacons?” on August 25, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY