



FIRST BAPTIST
JACKSON

DEACON QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications of a deacon are set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

- He must be **reverent**. He should be a man of spiritual maturity who understands the importance of the task. We believe that to truly serve the church properly, he must be exemplary in his attendance.
- He must **not be double-tongued**. He should not be a man who says one thing to some and something else to others. His word should be sure. He must, with diligence, protect the unity of the church.
- He must **not be given to much wine**. He should not have his judgment clouded by alcohol.
- He must **not be greedy for money**. He should not be a man who lives for the treasures of this world, but for the riches of Christ. He should faithfully support the ministry and mission of the church.
- He must **hold the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience**. He should understand and live by the gospel.
- He must be **tested and found blameless**. He must be a man whose character has been proven. Therefore, we believe a man must have been a member of FBJ for at least three years to give the church adequate time to observe his character.
- His wife must be **reverent, not be one who slanders others, one who is mindful of how she lives, and one who is found faithful in all things**. If a man is married, his calling as a deacon should be a calling for her as wife as well. Therefore, the above characteristics should also describe her.
- He must be **faithful to his wife**. A man will not be automatically disqualified because of something that happened in the past, but his marriage must be a proven example of the gospel found in Ephesians 5:22-23.
- He and his wife must **lead his family well**. Children, especially as adults, are responsible for their own actions, but a deacon family must be one where the truths of Scripture are taught and modeled.

*We understand that no deacon is perfect, but are works in progress (Phil. 1:6). Also, in accordance with 1 Corinthians 8, he should be careful to not be a stumbling block to others. We believe that a deacon should be an example to the congregation of the power of the gospel and the sufficiency of Christ.