

1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Here are some questions and thoughts to help guide discussion:

1. What stood out to you from this Sunday's sermon? Was there anything that was new to you, or anything that surprised you?
2. We learned on Sunday that the word "deacon" really just means servant. This means that all of us who follow Christ are in some ways a "deacon." As a group, make a list of all of the ways you can think of that people serve one another here at EBC. What would happen, even for one day, if everybody stopped serving?
3. As you review Acts 6:1-7, does the office of deacon seem "lesser" to you? Could deacons ever be tempted to feel second-rate or less important to the pastors/elders/overseers? How would you counsel a deacon who was feeling this way?
4. What are the two main ways of interpreting 1 Timothy 3:11? Is either interpretation "wrong"? What are the implications of the different possible interpretations?
5. Deacons who serve well "gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13). Is it wrong to desire the gain a "good standing"? Why would serving well as a deacon boost your "confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus"? How does this actually work?
6. Is there any tension in your mind between the high standards for overseers and deacons in 1 Timothy 3, and the church's responsibility to be a welcoming place for broken people? How would you counsel someone who felt like they "weren't good enough" for church without watering down God's call to holiness?