Introduction:

What comes to your mind when you think of leadership?

Only a few think of service and yet that is the primary definition of leadership in the Bible.

Jesus said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant (diakonos).”

“For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve (to be a deacon) and to give his life as a ransom for many.”  
Mark 10:42-45

A deacon is a servant or minister, one who waits on tables.

There is an office of deacons in the church and there are many more who serve in that capacity without the title.

Who were the first deacons? Most believe they are found in Acts 6:1-7
Elders give spiritual leadership and oversight. Deacons care for material and physical needs in the church.

I. What qualifies someone to be a deacon?

1. Character – I Timothy 3:8
   - Worthy of respect – men of integrity.
   - Sincere – not double tongued.
   - Not indulging in much wine – temperate.
   - Not pursuing dishonest gain – trustworthy.

2. Spiritual Maturity – I Timothy 3:9-10
   - Doctrine - holding to the deep truths of the faith. They don’t need to teach, but they do need to know what they believe.
   - Life – with a clear conscience. They live what they believe.
   - Tested – They have shown that they are faithful and trustworthy.

3. Faithfulness and Leadership in the Home – I Timothy 3:12
   - A one-woman-man – faithful in their marriage.
   - Manages his household well.

II. Is Paul talking about the wives of deacons or women who were deacons? I Timothy 3:12
In favor of Deaconesses:

1. Verse 11 begins, "In the same way" and seems to be introducing a new class like verse 8 does for deacons.
2. The word “gyne” can be translated as wives or women. The word “their” is not in the Greek text.
3. If it is the wives of deacons who are addressed, why is nothing said to the wives of elders?
4. There is no word for deaconess in Greek. There were deacons who were women. An example is Phoebe who is called a deacon in Romans 16:1.
5. Very early in church history we have women serving as deacons, but not as elders.

What qualifies a woman to be a deaconess?

- Worthy of respect – a godly example.
- Not malicious talkers – not a gossip or a slanderer.
- Temperate – sober minded.
- Trustworthy in everything.

There are many different ways to serve in the church. Some have the title of deacons and deaconesses.

Others do the work of a deacon or deaconess in their area of ministry.

- Volunteers in our nursery and preschool
- Office and support staff
- Finance Team
- Buildings and Grounds Team
- Communion Preparers
- Ushers and Greeters
- Care Givers and Stephen Ministers
- And many others.

The church wouldn’t function without you.
“Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant.”
Mark 10:43

Who are our Deacons and Deaconesses?
Harry and Esther Haselius
Jodi Ihfe
Will Hayne
Becky Tollberg
Kristine Erickson
Bill Schildgen
Greg & Sherre Trunk

Thank you for serving Christ and his church!