Servants of the Lord and the Church

1st Timothy 3:8-13

(series #13)

Intro: the example of Jesus in John 13 & Mark 10:45

I. The Office of Deacon in the New Testament

A. Their link with overseers - Philippians 1:1

B. Their probable origin - Acts 6:1-7

II. The Initial Qualifications vv. 8-10

A. Dignified or worthy of respect

B. Not hypocritical in speech

C. Not controlled by alcohol

D. Not greedy for money

E. Holding to and living the truth

F. Proven examples

III. The Female Deacons v. 11

A. The case for female deacons

1. Grammatical reason
2. Contextual reason
3. Comparative reason
4. Hierarchical reason

B. The qualifications

- respected, not gossips, temperate, faithful

IV. Further Qualifications and Rewards vv. 12-13

A. Qualifications

1. A one woman man
2. One who shepherds his children

B. Rewards for serving well

1. An earned reputation of respect
2. An increased confidence in the faith

Conclusion: we are all supposed to serve - John 13:17