

# Shepherds & Servants

## 1 Tim 3:8-13

**Deacons, similarly, should be men of serious outlook and sincere conviction. They too should be temperate and not greedy for money. They should hold the faith as a sacred trust, with complete sincerity. Let them serve a period of probation first, and only serve as deacons if they prove satisfactory. Their wives should share their serious outlook, and must be women of discretion and self-control—women who can be trusted. Deacons should be men with only one wife, able to control their children and manage their own households properly. Those who do well as deacons earn for themselves a certain legitimate standing, as well as gaining confidence and freedom in the Christian faith.**

Our study in Timothy quickly turns from shepherds to servants, or deacons. Before we leave the study of overseers, let's consider some passages about their work.



Putting yourself in the role of a shepherd, what thoughts come to your mind as you see this picture of the sheep?

1. Proverbs 27:23 How would a shepherd know what this passage is asking?
2. Ezekiel 34:1-4, 11-16 Here, what were the shepherds of Israel to do?
3. 1 Thes 5:14 tells us what three things about members?
4. John 10:1-15 Describe the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep from this passage.

## Deacons

1. Deacons are not "junior" elders, nor the steps one takes to become an elder.
2. These are special servants who are dependable, trustworthy and godly—they are more than glorified maintenance men

### **Acts 6:1-7 A Problem & A Solution**

- The congregation no longer was unified (Acts 4:32, 6:1)
- The complaint was looked into by the leaders
  - It wasn't that the apostles could not do this. They had before (Mt 14:19)
  - No one could do what the apostles were doing. Others could take care of the widows
- They came up with a plan (they put this before the whole congregation— 6:2, 5)
- They put the chosen ones "in charge" of this task—6:3
  - who was over these seven servants?
- The apostles returned to the work they were to do (6:4, 7)