

Submitted Motion #2:

The office of Deacon should be limited to men only. Amend the bylaws by removing the word "women" from Section 5:03.

Motion made by: Ray Gratton

Rationale of Motion #2 (updated):

I believe scripture states that a Deacon is a man. Women are stated in scripture such as Phoebe, Aquila and other women servants of the Lord but not as Deacons.... I Timothy 3:11, 12 - Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

In my opinion, the position regarding the role of women in the church must rely upon "interpretations" which depend on how one wants to interpret it. Hence some translations may render it one way and other translations which render it another. The obvious problem here, is that scripture is not trying to confuse us nor play word games. Paul could have made it very clear that women **AND** men could serve as deacons but he didn't and only by "In-Depth" examination can one come to a different conclusion.

Paul makes it clear that a woman should not have authority over a man.... basically sets aside this aspect of the word of God because...it is necessary for a person to have the authority to carry out their responsibility. But by allowing women to serve as a deaconess, in different ministries, it creates situations in which women would be in a position of authority over men.

Women's role in service to the church should mimic the role of a wife in the home. At no time should the wife have a position of authority over her husband, but she does have authority in her home over her children and over the affairs of the household. So, if a church allows for deaconesses, it must make sure that the way they serve and the responsibilities they are given, will not create situations in which place them in a position of authority over men.

Respectfully, there is absolutely no strong teaching from the word of God that encourages women to serve as deacons and most arguments for it are based in emotional appeal, worldly wisdom and caving to the cultural pressure to avoid persecution.

God has a structure for the family and a wife or woman's role in the family. Just as she is to accept the position that God has given to her in the family structure, so too she should accept the position that God has for her in the church. The whole fall of man came about as a result of Eve's using her own reasoning rather than obeying what God had said. For me, implementing the office of deaconesses is using human reasoning and wisdom rather than simply obeying and adhering to the structure of authority God has declared clearly and plain in scripture.

Thank you for allowing an opportunity to share my thoughts on this important topic **of the Office of Deacon** to comply with 2 Timothy 2:15 ¹⁵ *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth* and 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 ²⁶ *What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.* ²⁷ *If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.* ²⁸ *But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.* ²⁹ *Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.* ³⁰ *If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent.* ³¹ *For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,* ³² *and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.* ³³ *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,* ³⁴ *the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.* ³⁵ *If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.* ³⁶ *Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?* ³⁷ *If anyone*

thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. ³⁸ If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. ³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.