

***Their Wives Likewise***

1 Timothy 3:11

- I. We must be careful to delineate between the practice of serving and the office of the deacon.
  - A. The church at large has responsibilities toward the rest.
    1. All of God's people, whether male or female, must serve the church at large (Heb. 6:10).
    2. All of God's people, whether male or female, must oversee the church at large (Heb. 12:15).
  - B. In submission to Scripture, the church chooses certain men to have certain responsibilities to the rest of the church.
- II. Wives of deacons is a strong position, and the third line of argumentation on the matter of church leadership.
  - A. Some argue for female deacons.
    1. There wouldn't be qualifications for the wives of deacons and not for the wives of pastors.
    2. The term likewise seems to simply another office.
    3. There isn't a feminine form for the word deacon at this time.
    4. Paul didn't use a personal possessive pronoun with the term, which would have indicated a relationship.
  - B. Some believe 1 Tim. 3:11 describes deacon's wives (and therefore, not female deacons).
    1. The office of the deacon assists the office of the overseer (i.e., the office of the deacon is always with and after the office of the overseer).
    2. Paul used the generic term women in 3:11 which doesn't fit as a third category (e.g. overseers, deacons, and women).
    3. The placement of 3:11 in the midst of the qualification for deacons in 3:8-10 and 3:12-13.
    4. The omission of any marital or family requirements (if it were a reference to female deacons).