

Women in the Office of Deacon

1 Timothy 3:11

November 5, 2017

I. Why This Sermon?

- A. Majoring in minors?
- B. Puzzling
- C. Controversial (*Reformed Presbyterian Testimony* 25:8; 1 Timothy 2:12; 1 Corinthians 14:33-35)

II. Deaconesses in Scripture

- A. Terminology: "deaconess" vs. "woman deacon"
- B. Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2; Acts 16:14-15; Luke 8:2-3)
- C. The Tabernacle (Exodus 38:8; 1 Timothy 3:13; 1 Samuel 2:22)
- D. "The women" (1 Timothy 3:11; 5:3-16)

III. Deaconesses in the Ancient Churches

- A. Do ancient churches matter?
- B. East vs. West
- C. The *Didascalia* (early 200s; see Titus 2:3-5).
- D. The *Ordo and the Canons concerning Ordination in the Holy Church* (400s)
- E. The *Apostolic Constitutions* (600s, based on other documents)

IV. The Need for Deaconesses

- A. Mercy
- B. Mentoring
- C. Bad reasons for deaconesses
- D. Give them the fruit of their hands (Proverbs 31:10-11, 31)