

Shield of Faith Christian Education Department
Bishop HB Alexander, Instructor

Ministers' and Deacons' Class

Honoring the Lord by Honoring Your Ministry
Sunday, March 23, 2008

One who has been called to ministry, either as a minister, deacon or pastor has an unusual opportunity to serve God and to exalt Jesus Christ. She or he also has an opportunity to accrue a great reward, both in time and eternity.

I Timothy 3:13 - "They that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree and great boldness in the faith."

Matthew 25: 34 "Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you..."

This lesson is intended to prepare and inspire you to achieve excellence and true greatness in your service to God and to the Body of Christ.

Below are various aspects of effective ministry, components of behavior and attitude that are necessary for a good minister

I Timothy 4:12 Be thou an **example**

Promptness, faithfulness, patience, peaceful relations with others in the church, sacrifice, focus, etc, etc.

The minister **reverences** and respects the privilege of his service to God

Numbers 16:9 Seemeth it a but a small thing unto you that the Lord has separated you....

The minister is **enslaved** to the work of God – and glad to sacrifice for the eternal kingdom

Paul a prisoner or a **servant** (*doulos* or "slave") of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:1, Galatians 1:10)

The minister as a committed slave to ministry

Colossians 1:24 - "who now rejoice in my sufferings for you..."

II Corinthians 11:23-33 Paul's resume of sacrifices for the church of God

The need for absolute faithfulness in all duties and deportment

II Timothy 2:22 - The same commit thou to **faithful** men...

Faithful to Bible Study,	To Sunday night service
To mentor groups attendance	to Sunday School,
to fasting and prayer,	to tithing

I Corinthians 16:15 – These Have addicted themselves to the ministry to the saints

These are the exceptional people that God can use in extraordinary ways to make a difference

Note – both Paul and Jesus stayed single when marriage was an option for both: That speaks of two things –

1.) the extent to which a single person can focus on ministry exclusively, and

2.) the degree to which a married person has *real obligations* to their family – no matter how anointed their ministry is

Ministers must be wise individuals, practical and sound thinkers
(Acts 6:3...men full of the holy ghost and *wisdom*... ”)

Qualifications for ministry (I Timothy 3:1-7)

Samuel did not have his family under subjection
Aaron did not have Nadab and Abihu under subjection
We see nothing extraordinary about Moses' sons

Qualifications for the deacon (I Timothy 3:8-13)

A minister is one *under* authority (to the pastor above him) and *over* authority

Matthew 8:9 – bearing authority and submitting to authority

A minister knows how to do the work and give the *honor* to the authority above him.

As Jesus, in his *sonship* did to the Father
(John 14:28 My Father is greater than I,
Matthew 19:17 there is none good but One...)

I Samuel 15:22 The minister is a model of **obedience**

To TAME leader

To pastor

To the Fellowship of Churches as an organization – 100% license renewal by all SOF ministers, without complications or exception!

The minister is a master-student of the Word.

II Timothy 2:15 - Study to show thyself approved

I Tim 4:13 Till I come give attendance to doctrine

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The ministers look for creative opportunities to do ministry

Whatever your hand finds to do

The minister comes to serve, not to be honored

Mark 10:45 – not to be ministered *to*

The minister knows what his ministry gifts are – and works to perfect them

Romans 12:3 - -7 “let us wait on our ministering..”

A good minister operates out of a pure motive with a sincere heart.

Philippians 1:16 – sincere ministry, not contentious

The minister realizes that in a busy church not everyone can be singled out for honor, but that God is faithfully noting the work and sacrifice and is faithful to reward our efforts in eternal terms

Hebrews 6:10