

A photograph of a church service. In the foreground, the backs of many people's heads are visible as they sit in pews. In the background, a large banner hangs from the ceiling with the text "Is Now" and "Let's Live Together!" written in cursive. A group of people is standing on a stage in the background, some with their arms raised. The overall scene is brightly lit and captures a moment of communal worship.

SERMON OF THE WEEK

“Deacon Selection 2016”

We Are Chosen by God

Eph 1:4 *“He chose us* in
Him before the foundat-
ion of the world, that
we should be holy
and blameless...



Choosing Deacons



Nature: Servant of Servants

Motivation to Serve: High Standing

10 Qualifications to Serve as Deacons

Are They Solid ?

Marks of **Competence**: Good Managers

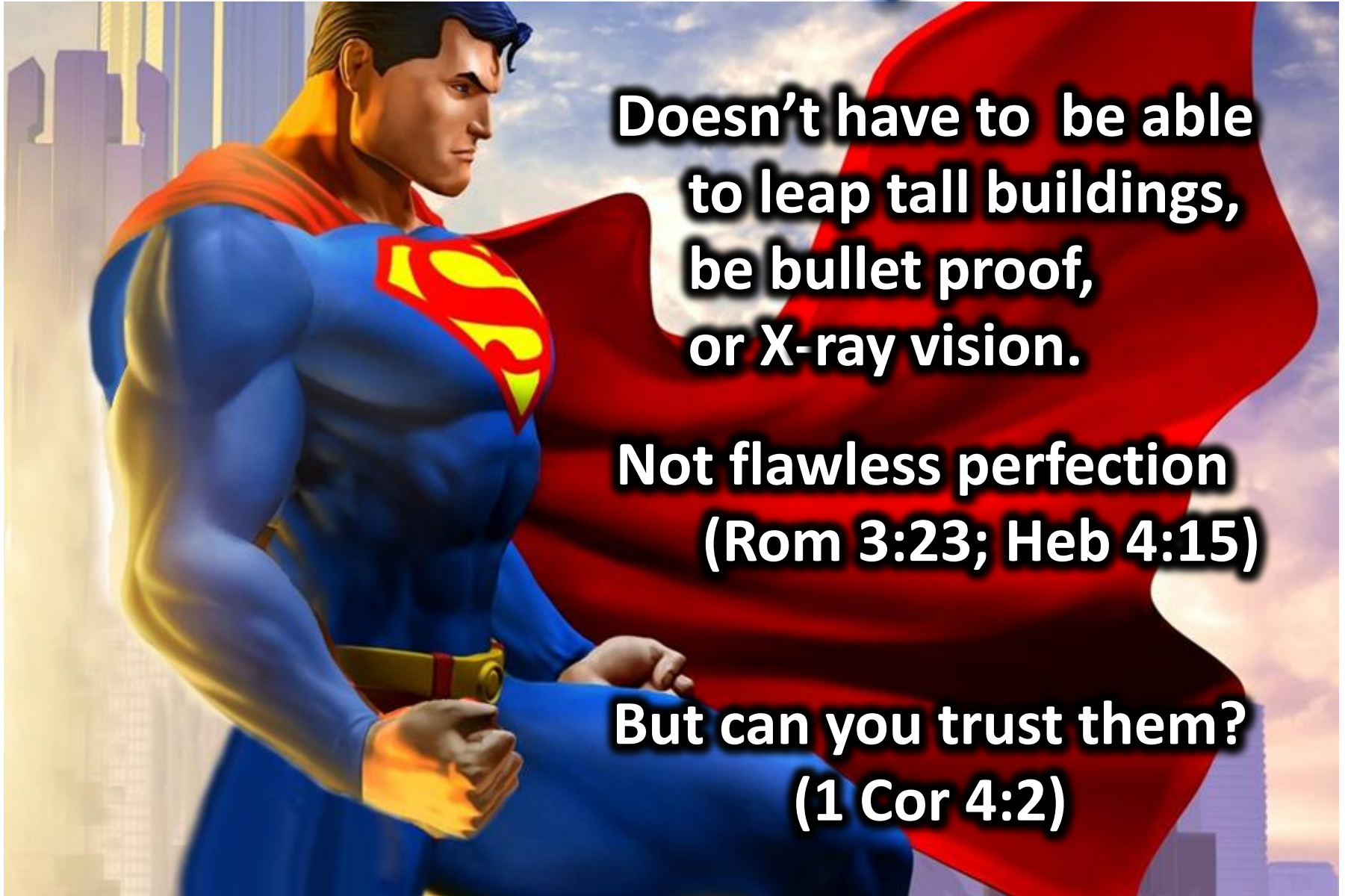
Marks of **Morality**: Honest, Sober, No greed

Marks of **Maturity**: Spiritually not new convert

Marks of **Identification**: Holding the faith



Deacons Aren't Supermen



**Doesn't have to be able
to leap tall buildings,
be bullet proof,
or X-ray vision.**

**Not flawless perfection
(Rom 3:23; Heb 4:15)**

**But can you trust them?
(1 Cor 4:2)**

The Church Does the Selecting



The Church Selected

men to serve
the church.

(Acts 6:3) “The twelve summoned the **congregation of the disciples** and said... select from among you seven men.” (Not the apostles)

Church also chose men to serve as messengers.

(1Cor 16:3) “Whomever You Approve I will send with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem.”

Method of Selecting unspecified

1st Step: **Recommend** men (1Cor10:23)

3 Christopher

4 Johnathon

25 Thomas

24 Jacob

2 Graham

2 Benjamin

1 Carson

12 William

Pray about it

Write on Sheet

Maybe ask man

Give it to elders

Elders weigh who

often suggested?

Acts 16:2 **Well spoken of** by the brethren

Method of Selecting unspecified

2nd Step: **Elders Weigh** Who Most Likely?

3 Christopher
4 Johnathon
25 Thomas
24 Jacob
2 Graham
2 Benjamin
1 Carson
12 William

Eccl 10:10
“**Wisdom** has
the advantage
of giving
success.”

Prov 14:33 Wisdom Lies in the Heart of...

Step #3 Church **Evaluates** the Men

Qualified— Confident in that specific quality.

Unqualified— Provable sin in an area.

Other— Explain: Unknown.

I'm too new. Concern.

If just your opinion—forget it.

If man is approved,
he's appointed!

Seek Peace and
pursue it 1 Pet 3:11



530 Peace, Perfect Peace

Isa 26:3 You will keep in *perfect peace* him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.



What the Church Needs in *Deacons*

Deacons Ethically Qualified (1 Tim 3:8-12)

Committed
Diligent,
Determined,
Perseverance,
Honest,
Sober.

A good example
of attendance
& spirituality.

And love this
church
(2 Thes 1:3).

Willing to give Themselves, Time & Money.

Does your family agree ?

Our Congregation's Attitude

1. Righteous Judgment: (John 7:24; Mat 7:1-2)

Consider current issues, not corrected past.

2. Honesty and Courage (2Tim 1:7) Not timidity

Absence of signature at bottom-- invalidates list.

3. Consider Degree of Qualifications

Not *Superlative* ie. "Best imaginable"

Not *Comparative* "Better than the other guy"

Some are *Absolute*- "Husband of one wife"

Some are *Relative*- "Good manager"



Candidates if Not Selected

A. Joseph Justus Barsabbas: (Acts 1:23-26)

As mature Christian, he'd keep on serving even if not as apostle. Rom 8:28



B. Jonathan—Son of Saul:

(1Sam 18:1; 20:4-5, 30-33, 41-42)

Always trying to do what's Best !

Willing to serve in whatever capacity!

Never a hint of jealousy or competition!



Mark
9:34

What Applies to Deacons *Applies to US*



**We are saved to
serve! (John 12:26)**

**Encourage and
build up!
(1 Thes 5:11)**

**Commitment,
Diligence,
Resolve, Enthusiasm,
Zeal, Perseverance,
Loyalty,
Love.**

We Will All Be Examined

(2 Cor 5:10)
For we must
ALL appear
before *the*
judgment
seat of
Christ

That each one may
receive what is due
him for the things
done while in the
body, whether
good or bad.

NIV

Inv: # 336 Is It for Me?

You will seek me
and find me when
you seek
me with
all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

**Men You Think MAY be Qualified as Deacons
2016**

1. **Dignified**: Respected for his character. Has a good reputation.
2. **Not double-tongued**: Honest, truthful, reliable
3. **Not Addicted to much wine**: Not an addict. Puts the church above own selfish desires (1 Cor 10:32-33)
4. **Not fond of sordid gain**: Ethical. Not fond of money gained dishonestly.
5. **Holding the mystery of the faith in a clear conscience**: A Christian who has right motives for wanting to serve. They are stable and studied.
6. **First be tested**: Known for being consistent, hard-working & moral.
7. **Beyond reproach**: un-impeachable. No charge of current sin can be sustained.
8. **Women likewise**: (ie. Wives of deacons)
 - a. **Dignified**—honorable, held in esteem.
 - b. **Not malicious gossips**—not given to fault finding and spreading innuendos in the church.
 - c. **Temperate**: self-controlled, balanced in life.
 - d. **Faithful in all things**—Trusted, reliable in all things.
9. **Husband of one wife**: Having not more nor less than one wife.
10. **Good manager of his children & household**: Is he a good manager of both people (his children) and things (possessions).

**Men who—you recommend as fitting the above qualifications,
that you would like to see evaluated by the congregation.**

Your signature _____ Date _____