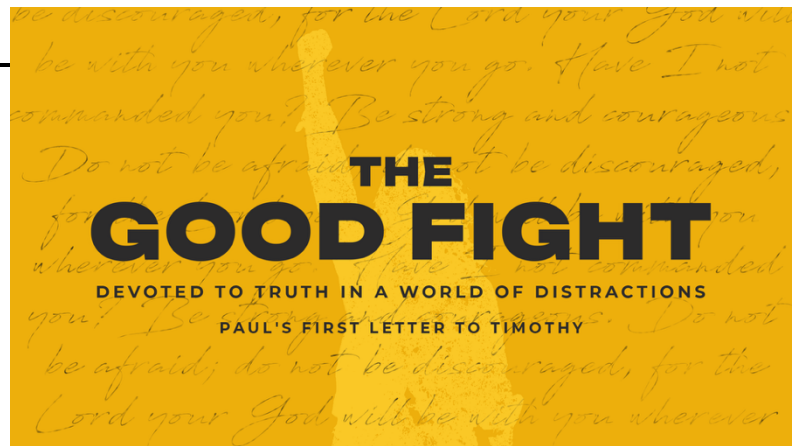


The Good Fight

Devoted to truth in a world of distractions

8 – Tested First

1 Timothy 3:8-13



1. In the introduction, Pastor Todd talked about the “strategic division of labour” in church ministry and related it to Acts 6:1-7. Reflect on your own experience of leaders and helpers working together at Harvest. Why is this so important to the health and mission of the church?
2. As was true of the overseers (elders/pastors) in the last message, deacons (helpers) are tested with respect to Christlike character. Review each of the character traits for both men and women deacons and talk about why these traits are essential for anyone in serving roles. (see the chart)
3. If you’ve been in the church most of your life, you may have a story of a grumpy deacon who controlled some aspect of the building or who always complained about the youth ministry. Just for fun, share some stories about guys like, “Joe who always stood by the thermostat.”
4. Our mission statement reads: “Harvest exists to glorify God by making more and better followers of Jesus who love God and love people.” Share with one another the leadership and/or helper roles you fulfill in accomplishing the mission.
5. Look again at the two gains that come from serving in 1 Timothy 3:13. God has promised both to those who serve. If you’re not serving, what needs to change to get you more engaged?

Series: The Good Fight (1 Timothy)

Todd Dugard

Message: 8 – Tested First

Harvest Bible Chapel

Text: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

June 15, 2025

If I am a servant in the church whose... (v. 8a)

...character has been tested (v. 8b-11)

...and family is on track (v. 12)

I will gain for myself... (v. 13a)

...a good standing before others (v. 13b)

...and great confidence in Christ (v. 13c)

Characteristics of a Deacon

1 Timothy 3:8–12

Various lexical sources

1	Dignified	Worthy of respect, honour	v. 8
2	Not double-tongued	Not insincere or hypocritical; person of their word	v. 8
3	Not addicted to much wine	Not indulging in excess drinking; not becoming impaired	v. 8
4	Not greedy for dishonest gain	Not all about money; not getting money in shady ways; not willing to set aside their principles to make money; not looking to the church to profit for themselves; so critical because the nature of this role often involved looking after finance-related tasks	v. 8
5	Hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience	This reference is to the gospel message of life in Christ; though this is a hands-on practical serving role, the deacon must no less than the elder believe the gospel and have a solid faith.	v. 9
6	Tested first	Examined carefully to determine the truth; are they legit?	v. 10
7	Prove themselves blameless	Not perfect but unable to be accused because they keep short accounts with people and deal with their own sin issues decisively.	v. 10
8	The husband of one wife	A one-woman man; committed to the woman he's married to	v. 12
9	Managing their children and their own households well	You can't serve if your kids are out of control, rebellious, disobedient to you. No stipulation that they have to be believers, but that they certainly are respectful toward their parents.	v. 12

The Women Helpers

1	Dignified	Worthy of respect, honour	v. 11
2	Not slanderers	Not gossipers, not stirring things up, not dishing on people, not trash-talking	v. 11
3	Sober-minded	Self-controlled, clear-minded, not a Karen	v. 11
4	Faithful in all things	Trustworthy, dependable	v. 11