Building the Church Requires Godly Servanthood

1 Timothy 3:8-13

The church needs qualified people who will pour themselves into structured service.

1. What's it take to be a deacon (v8-12)?

1. What comes of being a deacon (v13)?

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(1 Timothy 3:8-13)

1. Read Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. Why are the lists of spiritual gifts in Scripture not all the same? How do the offices of elder and deacon (1 Timothy 3:1-13) function with regard to gifted people in the church? Name a couple of things elders and deacons can do to get ministry going, and a couple of things they can do to keep ministry under control. Would you say those things are easy or hard? Why?

2. Compare the qualifications for elder (1 Tim 3:1-7) with those for deacon (v8-13). What are the similarities and differences? Why would the requirements for deacons be so high?

3. Can you present the gospel ("the mystery of the faith," v9) clearly from Scripture? Here are some passages that summarize the gospel well. See if you can point out the essential truths of the gospel from these passages. Do you know of others that could also be used?
    - Romans 3:21-26
    - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
    - Titus 3:3-5
    - 1 Peter 3:18
    - Romans 6:23

4. Read 1 Timothy 3:11 in a few different translations. Do you think it's referring to the wives of deacons, to women in general, or to women who are deacons? Can you support your position? What difference does it make in the church? How do you relate to people who don't agree with you on this?

5. What are the rewards of serving as deacon (v13)? Why do you suppose Paul pointed out these rewards? What can we do to support and encourage the people serving in similar roles here?

6. What are the ministry teams at River Hills (see website under "About"/"Organizational Structure")? Is there an area in which you'd be interested in serving? Is there a vacant Coordinator (read "Deacon") position that God might direct you to investigate?