

Defining Deacons, Defining Christians (July 12th)

THE COMMUNITY

Memorize 1 Timothy 1:5 – *“The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.”*

1. What American historical spot would you like to visit that you haven't yet?
2. From your time at corporate worship – the people, music, sermon, serving in a ministry – what encouraged, moved, or excited you? What questions came up for you?

THE BIBLE (*Websites - biblegateway.com, blueletterbible.org, biblos.com, ccel.org*)

3. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16 this week. Use the websites above to read it in different versions. What observations do you have? What words or phrases stand out to you?
4. Why was it important for Paul to instruct Timothy on the qualifications for deacons?

THE APPLICATION

5. How does it impact you that the qualifications for deacons should define everyone who is a Christ-follower?

6. What obstacles prevent you from aiming to be a deacon or deaconess? What are some practical ways you can give effort toward that role?

7. "Far too often the Church isn't classified by her dignity, but rather by her hypocrisy." Do you agree or disagree? How do you see this demonstrated in today's culture?

8. What can you do to help bring dignity to the Church? What is one thing you will do this week in order for your life to bring dignity to the Church?