

# 1 Timothy 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

## Analysis

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**And let these also first be proved** (καὶ οὗτοι δὲ δοκιμαζέσθωσαν πρῶτον, kai houtoi de dokimazesthōsan prōton)—'let them first be tested.' Dokimazō means to examine, scrutinize, approve after testing—the same word used for testing metals for purity. **Then let them use the office of a deacon** (eita diakoneitōsan)—'then let them serve as deacons.'

**Being found blameless** (ἀνέγκλητοι ὄντες, anegklētoi ontes)—'being without reproach,' the same term used for elders (3:2). The testing period proves character under observation—how does the candidate handle responsibilities? Respond to criticism? Manage finances? Serve when no one's watching?

No one should be thrust immediately into diaconal ministry. Character must be proven through faithful service in small things before being entrusted with greater responsibility (Luke 16:10). The church observes, evaluates, and only then officially recognizes those who have demonstrated fitness.

## Historical Context

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In the Greco-Roman world, public offices were often purchased or granted through patronage. The church operates differently—leaders must be tested and proven over time. The Ephesian church likely had a period of observation where potential deacons served informally before formal recognition. This protected both the church from unqualified leaders and candidates from premature responsibility.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What does a proper 'testing period' for ministry candidates look like in practice?
2. Why does faithful service in small, unseen things qualify someone for larger responsibility?
3. How can churches balance the need for workers with the requirement to thoroughly test candidates?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	οὗτοι	δὲ	δοκιμαζέσθωσαν	πρῶτον	εἴτα
also	these	And	be proved	first	then
G2532	G3778	G1161	G1381	G4412	G1534
διακονεῖτωσαν			ἀνέγκλητοι	ὄντες	
let them use the office of a deacon			found blameless	being	
G1247			G410	G5607	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 5:22** (Parallel theme): Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

**1 Timothy 3:13** (Parallel theme): For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.