

A DEACON'S CODE OF ETHICS

I am a deacon in a Southern Baptist church. In Christ I am saved from sin to a life of faith and usefulness.

In the church, of which Christ is the head, I have an opportunity to make my life count for him in Christian service.

The members of my church have expressed confidence in me by making me a deacon.

By the grace of God, in keeping with the mind and purpose of my Lord, and in response to the confidence of my brothers and sisters, I hereby commit myself to:

The Bible

I accept the New Testament as my source of authority on the Christian life and the work of a deacon. From it I learn that deacons were first chosen to serve with the pastor in the ministries of the church, that they were ordained by the church to serve people in need, that they were expected to set an example in Christian life and service.

Proper Authority

The church determines my specific authority, and I will be true to its constitutional or special instructions to its deacons.

The Lord Jesus Christ has granted me spiritual authority, and I will be true to Him by setting a Christian example in everyday living.

My conscience, quickened by the Holy Spirit, gives moral authority; and I will strive to be wise, fair, loving, and courageous in dealing with current issues.

The Pastor

I am my pastor's partner and co-worker. Both of us are responsible to Christ, and we are co-workers for Christ.

My pastor is shepherd of the flock, and I will strive to help him be a good shepherd by:

- Praying for him
- Encouraging him
- Defending him when he is criticized unfairly
- Being frank with him when I think he is mistaken
- Being his brother in Christ, his co-laborer in the church, and his moral and spiritual helper in service to people.

Other Deacons

I recognize that I am engaged in teamwork with my pastor and the other deacons. I will:

- Respect the other deacons
- Pray for them

- Strive to understand their points of view when we do not agree and will disagree in love
- Carry my share of responsibility at all times
- Defend them if they are attacked or misunderstood by others.

The Church

I will strive to work responsibly with all who are members of the church by:

- Attending the services and participating in the work of the church
- Supporting the financial program of the church
- Encouraging the indifferent members and praising the faithful ones.
- Supporting the decisions of the church even when I am in the minority
- Discouraging envy, jealousy, backbiting, and strife
- Refraining from gossip and insisting that the truth be told about all matters
- Guarding sacredly any confidence entrusted to me
- Bearing witness to the unsaved and appealing to them to accept Christ and join the Church.

My Lord

Of myself I am neither wise, good, nor strong enough to be a deacon. But I am not alone in this work. Christ is my companion, and through His wisdom, mercy, and power I am able to serve.