#6 THOU SHALT LIVE AND ACT WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING (Eph. 4:1-7)
How urgent it is, that we adhere to these admonishments uttered by Paul to all Christians, that we should live and act worthy of our calling. ...They are challenging words, a call to prove the reality of our wealth in having been chosen to Christ’s service through the uprightness of our walk. (1Lohn 2:6) His goal for every Christian is our complete conformity to the image of His Son. He would have us every step in our walk to bring us that much nearer to that goal.

Most Christians are afraid of the word “holy.” They think that they might be misunderstood as trying to have a “better than you and holier than thou” personality. But, holiness is an attribute of deity, associated with ideas of purity and righteousness. I cannot understand how Christians boast so much about being like Jesus, but dread taking on this most prevalent attribute of His, which is holiness. ...It is most particularly required of the deaconess that she strive to walk daily in Christ’s holiness. ...Let us search ourselves, deaconesses in common settings, such as our meetings. How much holiness, (Christ-likeness, humility, patience, and the like), do we portray there? Are we patient with each other, or are we hasty to “cut each other up” when the suggestion made is not ours. ...All have some kind of “secret faults.” That’s why Paul advises that we make allowances for each other, leaving room for our own faults. ...We sin, when we display a lack of coordination between members. One can readily observe shameful divisions caused by trivial issues, which dishonor the Lord. ...We are urgently commanded to be sure that we “walk, live, and act worthy of our calling!” (2 Thess. 1:11,12)

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION
- In what ways might a deaconess not walk consistently with her calling?
- How can you employ the Holy Spirit to direct your actions?
- How does one become spirit-filled? (In your own words from Col. 3:16, Eph 5:18-21; Rom. 12:1-3)?
- How do you know if you are spirit-filled?

#7 THOU SHALT BE MODEST (1 Tim 2:8-10)
To practice modesty, one must be neither bold nor assertive, observing the proprieties of dress and behavior. Modesty is a Christian virtue, and should especially be practiced by Christian women. The deaconess most particularly should possess these personal qualities: quietness, sensibility in manner and clothing and freedom from sin and resentment. If any characteristics should stand out, it should be her kindness and goodness, which denotes benevolence. The deaconess endowed with a spirit of benevolence would so have the interest of others at heart, that she would not have time to selfishly think of self-exaltation. ...No one says she should go around draped in a “sack cloth” like that which was worn in prehistoric times by the ancestors of Israel. Nor is it expected that she be deprived of the privilege of enhancing her looks with appropriate make up, hair styles and beautiful apparel. But, observing the proprieties of dress and behavior suggest regarding the socially acceptable standards (in this case of the religious community).
DEACONESS TRAINING

It is no secret that “gentleness” is also a mark of Christian maturity for all Christians. ...If we want our services to be blessed by God, by being a living example for others to follow, deaconesses.... Should more zealously practice the virtue of modesty.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- Define modesty in your own words.
- Describe a “quiet and humble” character?
- What is a modest dress code in our church culture?
- What does Paul mean in 1 Tim 2:9 - when he says that women should adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamefacedness and sobriety?
- What does your apparel reflect?

#8 THOU SHALT BE DILIGENT IN YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE YOUNGER WOMEN (Titus 2:3-5)

We are the only earthly examples that our younger women have to see and follow. ...Our Christian example is in our relationships at home, with our spouse and children [and] should create in them a desire to be the kind of mother and wife that we portray. God is holding us responsible to help develop through the training arm of our churches, the pious, dedicated Christian deaconess... and youth leader.

We must give our girls a good lesson on sex education at home, rather than have them learn it on the street corners. Teach them the beauty in marriage when entered into properly. Teach them the danger in being unevenly youked (2Cor. 6:14), the sin in living in adultery and what to look for in a Christian young man. ...Teach them the blessedness in family life, which is the will of God, and we must teach them to be submissive to their own husbands. I can hear some say to this statement, “Suppose they are not worthy of my submission, or suppose they do not have the same Christian beliefs that I have?” 1 Peter 3:1 responds this way, “Wives in the same way be submissive to your husbands, so that, if any of them do not believe the Word, they may be won over without talk by the behavior of their wives.”

Teach the young woman also how to build her home on Christ standards... Teach her to study the Scriptures... how to serve one another, (1 Thess 4:18) says how to encourage each other. (Proverbs 31:10-31)

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- Read Titus 2:3-5. In what ways are the older women to admonish the younger women?
- List some ways that a deaconess might practice these admonishments as an example.
- How can you go about seeking out the needs of confused women and address them?
- What qualifications should a deaconess have to be a “role model”?  
- Where is a good beginning for training? (Yourself; younger women)
- Where are the young women that you could be an example right now?

#9 THOU SHALT BE UNSELFISH (Prov. 21:9; Phil 2:1-4)

We should be unselfish with our husband’s role, whether he is a deacon, minister, or officer of the church. Don’t nag him until he becomes a “drop-out.” ...Let our personality complement his work, so that we can walk together in Christian love, and work together.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION
DEaconess Training

- How can I enhance my spouse’s spiritual walk?
- What are the damaging effects of a selfish disposition?
- What can I do in my behavior and mannerisms to help my church family?

#10 Thou Shalt Be Concerned About the New Converts

The deaconess has more of a responsibility to the new convert, than just changing his/her baptismal apparel. The job does not or should not stop with just taking care of outer needs. Many new converts get lost again right at the pool. They step out of the baptismal pool right into a brand new world, a new lifestyle, among new friends and acquaintances. But, no one is there precisely to answer their question: “Where do I go from here?”

As a deaconess, we should be there not just to help them out of the pool. A “follow-up” visit is in order. Why couldn’t we take someone under our wing and become their “spiritual partner?” We might become someone they could look to or call upon to answer some of their (sure to come) complex questions about this “new life in Christ.” Scriptural teachings will be most profitable. They have come into the new family of God and must be taught how they are an intricate part of this new family. They must be taught the wisdom of Heb. 5:13, 14.

Sister deaconesses, let’s not leave the new convert lost and bewildered at the “baptismal pool.” Believe me it can be a “maze.” They need a pure, clear “guiding light” to see through this “maze.” This is our great challenge!

Questions & Discussion

- What is your responsibility to the new convert? Give examples of how you can meet it?
- How might a deaconess follow up on the new convert?
- Which new converts would be of particular interest to the deaconess?
- How often would you envision connecting with a new convert?
- What kind of spiritual counseling might a deaconess give?
- When would you envision contacting the pastor before/during counseling?
- How might the deaconess help someone to enforce their commitment?

Checklist to Effective Prayer:

1. Get our hearts right with God and let nothing between our souls and our Savior.
2. Meditate on His Word daily. Abide in Him and let His Holy Spirit abide in us.
3. Be upright and righteous in all speaking and dealing with others.
4. Pray according to His will and not our own and never forget to wait for His answer.
5. Pray always in the precious Name of Jesus.

Concluding Questions & Discussion

- In your own words, what is a deaconess?
- In your own words, what are the qualifications for the deaconess?
- What is the first ministry of the deaconess?
- What are the “10 Commandments of the deaconess?”