

CONSIDERATIONS IN THE CALL OF A DEACONESS:

1. The motive for entering the calling must be a pure desire to serve the Lord. One who seeks merely a provision for life, or expects to attain a higher position by means of the deaconess calling, is not fitted for the service.
2. We desire in those applying as a candidate a devout and sincere mind, turned to spiritual things. This disposition must not, however, be based upon vague emotions, but upon the believing recognition of the truth of the gospel, as it is presented in the Holy Scriptures. The following passages are especially to be considered in this connection: Matt. 16: 24, 25: 20:1-7: and 25:14-30; Luke 14:12-14, and 10:2; Phil. 3:7-11; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 1 John 2: 15-17.
4. It is also of great importance that one who wishes to become a deaconess should have begun to experience the grace of Christ in her own inner life. One who desires to serve the Saviour among the poor, the suffering, and the degraded, and to help in leading them to Christ, must understand her own heart well enough to realize that she dare not rely upon her own strength, but only upon Him who has said: "Without me ye can do nothing."
6. A young woman who desires to choose the deaconess calling must be of a good reputation, and must therefore furnish a testimonial to that effect from her pastor. 1 Tim. 3 : 7.
7. A deaconess must possess good physical health. She also needs strength and endurance, so as to be equal to the labors of the calling. To one of a very delicate constitution, or afflicted with a chronic ailment, the service is too severe. She is not called upon to undertake that for which the Lord has not fitted her.
9. The following qualifications are furthermore necessary to become a good deaconess: She must possess a mind capable of development, must be able to adapt herself to the associated life, must be peaceful, unassuming and willing to obey. A cheerful disposition and a pleasant manner are desirable gifts for the calling.