

Deacon Nomination and Reflection

I'm sharing a few thoughts regarding the deacon nomination at the church. While I recognize that leadership may not implement the agreement I've drafted, I hope you might consider sharing the heart of this letter with the deacons.

I speak truth where it is needed and extend grace where it is lacking, trusting that this is part of God's work in and through me.

During our meeting, I wasn't convinced that the deacon's actions were appropriate. I appreciate efforts to frame my experience in a lighter way by comparing it to your sons. However, my own experience feels different and more complex.

I see things as they truly are—not as perceptions, but as truths. God has given me gifts that allow me to see beyond the surface—into the heart and soul. Through His wisdom, I sense the unspoken and understand what resides within others. It's not by my own strength, but by His Spirit that I discern what rests in the hearts of those around me. His truth prevails even when human understanding falls short.

I recognize that forgiveness doesn't always lead to reconciliation. Love sometimes requires addressing the actions of a brother.

Even among those who may not welcome me, I find peace. My heart carries no hatred—only joy, happiness and love. I cherish who I am, grounded in the unwavering truth that the Almighty God loves me. That alone is more than enough.

As it is written, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). Communion is not a gate reserved for the worthy, but a table set by

Christ for all who hunger and thirst for Him. Jesus Himself declared, "Whoever comes to me I will never cast out" (John 6:37).

The heart is sacred ground where grace takes root. "There is one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). This unity reflects the heart of communion—a shared partaking in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, drawing us closer as brothers and sisters.

Even when human institutions fail, the grace of God endures. His table is open to all who seek Him with sincerity. "So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together" (1 Corinthians 11:33). The invitation is collective, underscoring unity in the body of Christ.

The hatred others may hold is not a reflection of who I am but of their own walk with God. I pray they find their way back to His love, for the heart at peace is the heart closest to Him. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

I hope these words encourage reflection and foster an atmosphere where grace, humility, and unity thrive within your congregation. I thank you for your time and willingness to consider the heart of this letter.

**In Christ's love and peace,
Teddy**