

Church Leadership

The Role of Elders and Deacons

THE ROLE OF DEACONS IN THE CHURCH

Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-13

I. Necessity of Deacons

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“It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to **serve tables.”**
Acts 6:2

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“Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister (serve) to you?’ Matthew 25:44

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- Basic idea of “deacon” is actively meeting basic needs of life—food, water, shelter, clothing, health, hospitality (acceptance and welcoming), emergency needs, etc.
- Apostles were acknowledging this as an important matter.
- They believed others were best suited to meet these needs.

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- **Meeting physical needs is still a spiritual responsibility (v. 3).**
- **The mission of our church could not be advanced without faithful deacons.**

I. Necessity of Deacons

- **God provides deacons as a gift to care for and build up His church.**

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**II. Qualifications of
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- **In church leadership, godly character trumps skill or charisma.**
- **While deacons are meant to exemplify these traits, all Christians are to exhibit them.**

II. Qualifications of Deacons

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- **Not double-tongued—trustworthy.**
- **Not addicted to much wine—self control.**

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- **Holds the mystery of faith—holds deeply the truths of Christianity, esp. the gospel.**
- **Clear conscience—the way he lives is consistent with what he believes.**

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- Their wives—this word can mean women or wives. “Wives” seems more consistent in passage.
- Deacon’s wife plays crucial role in fulfilling the role of a deacon. Partners in ministry.

II. Qualifications of Deacons

- **Manage his household—cultivates a peaceful home environment, disciples and disciplines his children.**

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- **Gain a good standing – they gain the respect and affection of their church family.**
- **When is the last time you thanked a deacon for serving?**

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- **Serving makes you depend on Jesus more and you experience his faithfulness.**
- **Might God be calling you to serve as a deacon?**

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- The challenge for all of us is to see ourselves as servants in God's church.
- Humble service is a reflection of Jesus.
- Jesus is the ultimate Deacon.

III. Reward of Deacons

- **The call of every Christian is to have the heart of a deacon.**

But whoever would be great among you must be your servant. Matthew 20:26