

## **Deacons**

Acts 6:1-6- Men chosen to assist the elder in the daily service of food. These men were not called deacons but they were said to serve or minister. Greek diakoneo-serve-deacon

Greek-diakonos- servant

Used of the Lord Jesus Romans 15:8

Used of the Apostles Colossians 1:23, 25

Used of Christian workers Colossians 1:7

Describes a position in the Church. Philippians 1:1. 1 Timothy 3:8-13

### **Plurality of Deacons**

Deacon always in plural in the New Testament. Philippians 1:1

### **Qualifications**

1 Timothy 3:8-13

These men are not second rate Christians. Their qualifications are essentially the same as elders.

men of dignity – dignified, worthy of respect

not double tongued – must not give conflicting reports to different people or at different times, must be consistent

not addicted to wine – not addicted to alcoholic drink

not fond of sordid gain – not greedy for money, especially in the position that may handle the church finances.

holding to the mystery of the faith – sound in doctrine and life, must know the truth and must live it.

first tested – given minor responsibilities and observed to see if trustworthy and faithful, then can be given more responsibility if proven faithful.

beyond reproach – connected to being first tested- blameless in personal and public life

Women- women deacons – Romans 6:1, 2

dignified – reverent, sober

not malicious gossips – not passing on false and malicious reports to injure the reputation of others.

temperate – self control, restraint

faithful – dependable, loyal, worthy of confidence

husbands of one wife – one woman man, marriage of purity

good managers of children and household – can manage family and house hold with a good testimony. Receives a good testimony from children's obedience and faith.

### **Function of Deacons**

Nowhere in the New Testament is the exact function of a deacon given. But we can infer it from the name, the qualifications and the relationship to the elders.

Diakonos emphasizes the work of a servant.

The qualifications of a deacon are essentially the same as an elder and these are spiritual qualifications, so the deacons work is a spiritual work.

In Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8-11 the deacons are linked to the elders. We can infer that the deacons are to assist the elders,

In Acts 6:1-7 the deacons are given responsibility over the more practical matters finances and care for the widows.

No only did these men care for the widows and the daily serving of food, but Stephen and Phillip were active in preaching and evangelism. Acts 6, 7 and 8. Acts 6:8-15, Acts 8:4-8

### **Recognizing Deacons**

Deacons were chosen by the local church. Acts 6:3, 5, 6  
They were recognized by the laying on of hands.

### **Miscellaneous**

A Deacon is not a junior elder. A deacon will not necessarily someday become an elder.