

“The Great Need for Deacons”

Acts 6:1-7

Christ-like servanthood is what is the church should look for in a Deacon.

I. The Need for deacons was first recognized by the Apostles in the early church.

Acts 6:1 — ¹ Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.”

A. With church growth comes the need for more servants of God.

1. The church had a ministry of serving food to the needy within the church.
2. The Apostle took Jesus’ teaching about serving one another very serious.
3. Jesus instructed them how to get more workers for the harvest - **Matthew 9:37–38** _____

B. Apostles realized that their priority was to teach God’s word.

Acts 6:2 – ² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

C. They selected men with important traits:

Acts 6:3 – “Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. ⁴ “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.””

1. **A good reputation.** – They already have a servant’s heart.
2. **Full of the Spirit.** – They are under God control which results in obedience.
3. **Full of wisdom.** – they know how to make things run efficiently and handle problems.

II. The results of a good deacon ministry in the church:

Acts 6:7 — ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.”

A. The deacon ministry allows the Word of God to be more expanding.

1. The pastors (_____) prepares better.
2. The pastors spend more time in prayer.

B. The deacon ministry makes sure everyone’s needs are satisfied in the church.

III. The Apostle Paul also gave the qualifications of Deacons:

A. Qualification for men:

1 Timothy 3:8-10— ⁸ Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain ⁹ but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.”

1. He has to have a good reputation: -**v8**
2. They must be spiritual men. -**v9**
3. They must show they are will to serve. -**v10**

B. Qualification for women:

1 Timothy 3:11 – “Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

1. **tem-per-ate** --Exercising moderation and self-restraint:
learned to be temperate in eating and drinking.
2. **Faithful** - worthy of trust in handling practical matters; exercising good judgment or common sense.

THINK, PRAY AND OBEY:

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A. With church growth comes the need for more _____.

1. The church had a ministry of serving food to the needy within the church.
2. The Apostle took Jesus’ teaching about serving one another very serious. -**Luke 22:26-27**
3. Jesus instructed them how to get more workers for the harvest - **Matthew 9:37–38** _____

B. Apostles realized that their priority was to teach _____.

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