

## Duties of Deacons—1 Timothy 3:8; Acts 6:1-7

April 11, 2010

### CONTEXT

1. **Paul writing to Timothy: false teaching in Ephesus**
2. **Jesus is the Head of the Church. He is the perfect Shepherd/Pastor and Bond-Servant**
3. **Two officers of Church: Elders and Deacons (1 Tim 3:1, 8)**
4. **Description of a Deacon:** a spiritually mature man who serves as a minister of mercy to those in need: to the sick, the friendless, and any in distress; maintains the finances of the church; and, cares for the property of the church. *Diakonos* (used 29 x's) means anyone who serves or ministers, but is also used in Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8 for a servant-officer (deacon).

### I. Origin of the office of deacons (Acts 6:1-7)

- A. The Church exploded on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41)
- B. Great love and unity among the first **believers** (Acts 2:44-45)
- C. Money & goods were brought to the **apostles** to distribute to anyone in need (Acts 4:32, 34-35)
- D. Problem in the exploding church (Acts 6:1)
  1. Hellenistic Jews raised in Greek culture outside of Palestine
  2. Native Jews raised in Jerusalem/Palestine
- E. Priorities of the apostles (Acts 6:2,4): prayer & the Word
- F. Correction of the difficulty (Acts 6:3): delegate!
- G. Selection of the first deacons (Acts 6:5-6)
- H. Results of godly problem-solving (Acts 6:7)

**Principle:** Those gifted in Word and those in Deed are essential for the work of God (1 Peter 4:10-11).

### II. Specific duties of the first deacons

- A. “serving of food” and “serve tables” (Acts 6:1-2)
- B. *tables (trapeza)*— food (Ac 16:34), also finances (Lk 19:23)
- C. Specific duties
  1. Collect money & goods contributed for needy (Ac 4:34-37)
  2. Distribute the money or goods to needy (Ac 4:35)
  3. Ensure church justly and fairly distributed the money
  4. Coordinate the church’s overall ministry to needy

**Principles:** Deacons serve under the direction of elders (1 Pet 5:1-2). Deacons are men of integrity who are ministers of mercy (Jam 1:27).

## APPLICATIONS FROM JOHN 13:12-15

1. **Be cleansed.**

2. **Find your God-given ministry.**

3. **Pray for your leaders:**

### ELDERS

Ford Bowers (10)  
Poochie DeMars (10)  
Jack Stewart (10)  
Bruce Bosco (11)  
Mark Gende (11)  
Don Montgomery (11)  
Steve Barton (12)  
Cam Crawford (12)  
Don Tyler (12)

### DEACONS

\*Mark Morvay (11)  
John Butler (10)  
Weston Curtis (10)  
David Inman (10)  
Jason Wessinger (10)  
Jimmy Denning (11)  
Garnette Bouknight (11)  
Herb DeCuers (11)  
Craig Malone (11)  
Bill McMillin (11)  
Pete Rhoden (11)  
Chris Ruffin (11)  
Dan Berglund (12)  
Rhett Corley (12)  
Moe Dunn (12)  
Scott Johnson (12)  
Andy Murray (12)  
Tommy Takach (12)  
Steve Thomas (12)  
Chris Waites (12)  
Jim Wilkins (12)