

June 22, 2025



CHURCH

LEADERSHIP

MATTERS

Week Four:
Responsibilities
of Deacons

Central Church of Christ
Dalton, GA



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responsibilities of deacons

week four

Over the past few weeks, we've been talking a lot about church leadership. By way of review, the New Testament presents a twofold pattern for appointed leadership in the local church (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1–13). Commonly referred to as elders and deacons, these men work together to lead and serve the congregation.

Although some deacons may later become elders, deacons are not “elders-in-training.” They are special servants with important responsibilities of their own.

The local church has many different needs that, if left undone, can keep the church from functioning well. This is where deacons step in. They carry out works that match the *needs* of the congregation and the *abilities* of the men who serve.

In practical terms, deacons today may serve the church in many ways, such as:

- Facilitating benevolence work (helping those in need)
- Managing church property and maintenance
- Assisting with finances and budgeting
- Overseeing communications and media
- Coordinating outreach and service efforts
- Caring for widows, shut-ins, and those facing hardships
- Assisting with special events or ministry projects

The specific tasks may vary from church to church, but in every case, deacons serve by meeting real needs and helping the church stay healthy and focused on its mission.

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Sermon Outline

This lesson looks at a section of scripture that highlights some of the key responsibilities of deacons.

What Deacons Are Called to Be?

- In a general sense, a deacon is a Servant who follows Jesus' example in meeting people's needs (Rom. 15:8).
- In a special sense, a deacon is an Appointed leader within a local congregation who serves (Phil. 1:1).
- In a spiritual sense, deacons are men of high Character who are trustworthy and rooted in the faith (1 Tim. 3:8-13).
- In a practical sense, deacons Support the mission of the church and help free others to focus on other areas of ministry (Ac. 6:4).

What Deacons Are Called To Do?

- Address areas of Neglect (Ac. 6:1). When people or tasks are being overlooked, deacons give voice to those concerns to make sure they are properly addressed.
- Take Responsibility for specific needs (Ac. 6:2-3). When needs arise, the church should seek out men who are respected, spiritually mature, and capable.
- Provide Stability within the congregation (Ac. 6:5-6). Tension subsides when qualified men are appointed to step into specific roles to oversee specific tasks.
- Sacrifice time and energy so the Word can spread (Ac. 6:7). Administrative burdens can cause the ministry of the Word to be neglected; deacons help share the load.

bible class info

Qualities Overview (Part Two)

See Supplemental Workbook

Qualities Overview

These qualities have to do with how we are “inclined or drawn to certain behaviors” (disposition) and with the “attributes or features that distinguish us” (character).

Disposition (no fluctuation)

NOT GIVEN TO WINE (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7) not a drunkard; not addicted to wine

Do I refrain from improper use of intoxicating substances?

NOT VIOLENT (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7) inclined pick fights

Do I approach people looking for a fight? (Proverbs 16:18)

NOT QUARRELSOME (1 Timothy 3:3) contentious, trouble-maker, or looking for trouble

Do I avoid controversies about non-essential matters?

NOT QUICK-TEMPERED (Titus 1:7) inclined to anger, hot-headed, or short-fused

Can I handle difficult situations in a calm manner?

Character (some fluctuation)

TEMPERATE (1 Timothy 3:2) clear-thinking, able to make sound judgments, restrained

Do I respond well in negative circumstances? (Titus 2:1-3)

SOBER-MINDED (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8) reasonable, not impulsive, disciplined state of mind

Do I respond well in tough situations? (Philippians 4:6-8)

GENTLE (1 Timothy 3:3) gracious, considerate, kind

Do I consider the opinions and feelings of others when dealing with them? (Galatians 5:22-23)

JUST (Titus 1:8) upright, make proper judgments and act accordingly

Do I listen to both sides of a discussion before coming to a conclusion? (James 1:19)

HOLY (Titus 1:8) pleasing to God, upright in thoughts & actions

Do I have a personal relationship with the Father?

SELF-CONTROLLED (Titus 1:8) disciplined; to have power over oneself

Do I have the discipline to accomplish tasks and avoid trouble? (Romans 12:1-8)



scripture reading

Acts 6:1-4

“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:1–4, NKJV)

* The New King James Version. Thomas Nelson, 1982.