

I. The _____ of the office of Deacon

A. The meaning and use of the word, "Deacon"

1. "one who serves" derived fr. "to raise a dust by hastening"
2. Various translations: Minister 20x's Eph 3:7
Servant 7x's Jn 2:5

3. At first, a general term, it became _____ in usage
Deacon 3x's Phil 1:1, 1 Tim 3:8, 12

B. The purpose illustrated in the _____ of the office (Acts 6:1-8)

1. The seven are forerunners; but more—apostolic associates
Laid hands on; mirac power; Stephen's long speech! (6:6)
2. It arose out of necessity at the direction of the twelve.
3. More people meant more ministry! (6:1)
4. But the teacher must stay focused (Tim 5:17 w/6:2 & 4)
5. The apostolic instruction: Choose helpers! (6:3)
 - a. Seven: Drawn fr Jewish practice of men admin a city
 - b. Very high qualifications—a public ministry! (More later)
6. The men chosen (6:5)
 - a. All Grecians—men suited to meet the need of the hour.
 - b. Hellenistic meaning Jews coming out of the Grk culture
 - c. One, Nicolas, even a proselyte (a Grk convert to Judaism)
 - d. Introduces Stephen & Philip; anticipates Gentile expan.
7. The result of planned, organized ministry (6:7)
 - a. The Word of God increased! (_____ growth)
 - b. The church grew! (_____ growth, people saved!)
 - c. The "hard to win" came to Christ! (_____ growth!)

II. The _____ for the office of Deacon

A. Originally delineated by the Apostles (Acts 6:3)

1. "men of honest report"
With good references of whom others would speak well
2. "full of the Holy Ghost"
Under the _____ of the Holy Ghost
Spirit filled: Eph 5:18, not drunk with wine...but be filled
3. "full of wisdom"
Able to _____ knowledge to life's issues
4. Also described as "full of faith"
Dependent on & trusting God in every area of life

B. Formally outlined by the Apostle Paul (1 Tim 3:8-12)

1. _____ Character (3:8)
 - a. "grave" Serious in mind and character.
 - b. "not double tongued" One giving conflicting reports
Political!
 - c. "not given to much wine" An abstainer.
Cp. "not given to much brawling"
 - d. "not greedy of filthy lucre" Able to be trusted with money
2. _____ Life (3:9)
 - "holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience"
 - "mystery..." Body of Christian truth now revealed
 - "holding" Theology is a matter of applied living
 - "pure conscience" Without reservation; oneness w/God
3. Christian _____ (3:10)
 - a. "first be proved" Time to observe faith & conduct
 - b. "being found blameless" Blamed for nothing improper
4. _____
 - "husbands of one wife" Not divorced and remarried (3:12)
5. _____ relations (3:12)
 - "ruling their children and their own houses well"
 - Saved children who walk with the Lord
6. Characteristics of _____ (3:11)
 - a. Wives, not deaconesses.
Rom 16:1 only other reference; listed in the midst of
deacon qualifications not separately.
 - b. "grave" See above.
 - c. "not slanderers" Not a malicious gossip
 - d. "sober" Serious, earnest
 - e. "faithful in all things" To husband, family, Christ, church

III. The _____ of the Office of Deacon (1 Tim 3:13)

- A. Recognition and a sense of _____**
 *A good degree or excellent standing because it is a position of selfless service giving evidence of genuine Christ likeness and it so recognized by the church.
 *The assumed contrast is to positions in the world that offer fame, power, & money! Here there is none of these!
- B. Assurance of their _____ in the faith**
 *Motives are clarified by willing service