



Deacons: Servants of the Church!

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists,[a] because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 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. 3 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; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:1-7 NKJV)

- **What is a Deacon?**
 - One who is chosen from among us to serve us!
 - Deacon comes from the Greek *Diakonos* = to serve.
 - *"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant." (Mt 20:26 NLT)*

- **Why are Deacons Chosen?**
 - Because the church was growing rapidly, complaints threatened unity, needs were going unmet, and the pastors can't do it all!
 - *"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church..." (Eph 4:12 NLT)*
 - *"Deacons are God's gift to ministers so the latter may give themselves more fully to the ministry; they are God's gift to the congregation for their service will help the church to benefit from the ministry of an unencumbered minister." (G. Raymond Carlson, *And He Gave Pastors*)*

- **How are Deacons Chosen?**
 - *"...seek out from among you...men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom..." (v.3)*
 - Good reputation = respected; having character, integrity, trustworthiness
 - Full of the Holy Spirit = evidence of the Spirit's ongoing presence, power and guidance
 - Wisdom = fear of the Lord, love and knowledge of His Word, and sound application of this knowledge.

Today, we acknowledge the call of God upon those we have chosen, pledge our support to each of them, and pray for God's richest blessings upon their lives!

Suggested Reading Plan: [Whose Church Is It?](#)

Announcements:

- **Sunday Service @ 10 AM.** Nursery for children up to age 4 on weeks 2, 3 & 4; KidZone for ages 5-11.
- **Girl's Ministry** for grades K-6 *on Wednesdays @ 5:30 PM.*
- **Finish Line Youth** for ages 12-12th grade *Wednesdays @ 7 PM.*
- **Football Sunday** February 11, 2024 @ 10 AM. Wear your favorite team's gear, and invite a friend to join us for **30 Second Theology** where Pastor Craig Groschel will use the ads that play during the Big Game to teach Biblical principles.
- **Bravo Center Bowl-a-Thon** February 24 1-4 PM @ Patel's Lanes Kingston. **Call (845) 340-7355 for more information / before February 16 to give a head count and reserve a lane!** Proceeds go to the Pregnancy Support Center of Ulster County.



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