

Chapter 4

1. Acts 6.1-7 is full of invaluable biblical principles for guiding the priorities of the local church, including its elders and deacons. List as many of these key principles as you can. (you can divide your answers into groups: principles for elders and deacons, and principles for the church as a whole.)
2. If you are an elder in our church, what would be the one indispensable principal you should learn from Acts 6 and never forget? Deacons should answer this question also.
3. Although Acts 6 is most likely an account of appointment of the first deacons, what major lesson should deacons take from this account and apply to themselves as aids to the elders?
4. Why would the care of widows and the poor be a natural fit for the role of the deacon?
5. List some of the official tasks that the deacons can carry out on behalf of the elders. Specifically, what kinds of tasks would the elders need special assistance with, in order to free them to focus more effectively on leading and teaching? List as many as you can.
6. As stated by the author “a successful deacons ministry is dependent largely on effective supervision by the elders”. If you are an elder of the church, in what specific ways can you organize and regularly guide the deacons in their service? Deacons should answer this also.
7. Explain the doctrine of every-member ministry in the body of Christ. What biblical texts teach this amazing Christian doctrine? When defining the role of the deacons, why must the doctrine of every-member ministry be kept in mind at all times?
8. Why would deacons need to meet regularly together as a deliberative body? List as many reasons as you can. Why would deacons NOT need to meet together as a deliberative body?
9. How do the following scripture passages guide the deacons in the relationship with the elders in the congregation?
 - a. Galatians 5.19-23; 1 Peter 5.5; Philippians 2.3-8; Hebrews 13.17; 1 Thessalonians 5.12-13; 1 Corinthians 12.31-13.3, 16.14
10. What do you think will happen if the deacons are not diligent in their work, or do not take initiative, or do not follow through with the responsibilities? List three adverse consequences.