

THE ORIGINATION & RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEACONS (Acts 6:1-7)

A. The STRUCTURE of the LOCAL CHURCH. (Philippians 1:1)

1. There are the _____ that feed and lead God’s flock under Christ’s Headship and WOG.
2. There are the _____ that serve various needs of the congregation under the elders.
3. There are the _____ that are to be equipped for their work of ministry.

- What does the term “deacon” mean? The term “deacon” [diakonos] means

It is used _____ of anyone who serves (1 Cor. 3:5; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 6:21; Rom. 16:1), or _____ of designated believers who serve in the office of a deacon (1 Tim. 3:8-13).

Within the structure of a local church, there are deacons who are _____ believers who serve the Lord and others under the authority and direction of the _____ yet they do so to the benefit and blessing of the _____. By the time the book of Philippians was written _____ are an established function and office in the local church.

B. The ORIGINATION of DEACONS. (Acts 6:1-7)

1. The *reasons* that precipitated the need of official deacons were the _____ of the church and a genuine _____ being neglected. (6:1) Does church growth bring its own problems?
 - Applications?
 - How was this both a trial and a temptation? It was a trial allowed by God for their _____ though it may be used by Satan for _____ through internal division. Are the “problems” usually the bottom-line problem?
2. The *responses* to this need by the apostles were to recognize and maintain their God-given _____ and address this functional problem by giving _____ for the appointment of _____. (6:2-4) What were these sp. leaders priorities to be?
 - What 5 general qualifications were stated for these deacons?
 - 1) _____ *from among you* – chosen from within; people who were saved and known by the church
 - 2) _____ *seven men* – not women
 - 3) _____ *good reputation* – possessed moral character & a faithful Christian testimony
 - 4) _____ *full of the Holy Spirit* – spiritually minded
 - 5) _____ *full of wisdom* – practically capable – why would this be needed?

- Note the “under” and “over” of the deacon: They were under the spiritual leaders, but over this ministry. Why is this important to observe?
- Example of King Saul & applications:
- Who made the final decisions in this matter?
- What is the bottom-line responsibility of a deacon? It is to serve Jesus Christ under the elders to meet genuine needs that arise in the congregation and to allow the spiritual leaders of a local church to maintain their God-given priorities.

3. The *responses* by the whole congregation to the apostle’s leadership and direction involved them being _____ and selecting seven men to serve as_____. (6:5)

- What is noteworthy about these 7 deacons?
 - 1) They were all Greek names.
 - 2) They were selected, qualified, and accepted this servant-leader role.
 - 3) Two of these men would later serve the Lord in other ways {Stephen & Philip}; five of them we never hear of again

4. The *deacons’ public appointment* was done by the _____ {apostles} after _____ and involved the apostles _____ on them. (6:6)

5. The *results* of the spiritual leadership maintaining its priorities and wisely addressing this functional problem via deacons was the _____ of the Word of God and many more people getting _____. (6:7)

• Some lessons to learn:

- 1) Church problems handled biblically & wisely can _____ the ministry of the WOG and not necessarily hurt it.
- 2) The primary responsibility of a deacon is to _____ under the authority of the elders so that genuine needs are met and the elders maintain their God-given priorities.

• Who was the ultimate example of a humble servant? (Phil. 2:5-11)