

Intro: **Rowing Crews: 1+2: BowPair; 3-6: EngineRoom; 7: Stern; 8: Stroke; Coxswain; Coach. Complementarianism. Equal with different roles.** Elders/Deacons. Men/Women. Husband/Wife. Pastor/Congregation. Parent/Child. Father/Son/Holy Spirit.

Thesis: "Every Church needs Faithful Deacons of Character, Service & Care"

I. Men of Character (8-9)

- A. **Similar Characteristics** as elders. **Difference:** Teaching, Hospitality, Argue/Gentle.
- B. **Difference: Elders/Deacons (Acts 6:1-7; Philippians 1:1).** Working together for Good.

ILLUSTRATION: Rowing Crews. Coach, Coxswain, Stroke, Stern, EngineRoom, BowPair.

- C. **What about these women/wives? (v.11).** Context is Elders & Deacons. Word is meant as wives when talking about elders/deacons faithfulness to their "woman." Elders/Deacons are masculine nouns. **Acts 6; Phil.1** are men. Phoebe was a deaconess, but word is used specifically there. Why didn't Paul say "deaconess also" when he switches back to talk about the men he doesn't say "men also", he says "deacons" again. But this doesn't mean women don't play a vital role in assistant, advising, helping, teaching, and even leading/directing in ministries of the local church/other ministry/mission (**Rom.16**).
- D. **The Ordained (laying on of hands) role/title of Deacon** is only given to Men in NT.

II. Men of Service & Care (10-13)

- A. **Main role of Deacon is to Lead in Service.** Jesus Prime Example. **Servant/Shepherd.**
- B. **Pastors/Elders serve too. We're all to Serve (Phil.2).** When that's hindering overall ministry/mission of Church, Deacons and congregation step in to help carry load/serve.
- C. **Care Categories of Service in the Ministry of the Church.**

1. **Congregation Care** (Poor, Needy, Sick) Widows, orphans, elderly, etc.

ILLUSTRATION: "I called my Deacon." Luggage upsteps. Change bulb/Garage. **R.O.M.A.N.S.**

2. **Community Care** (Poor, Needy, Sick, General Public).

3. **Facility Care** (Building & Grounds). Handyman stuff. Save church/congregation money. Stewardship of gifts and abilities. Tithing your time and talents.

CONCLUSION: Our Church needs Deacons. Men who identify needs, take care of needs, recruit others to address needs, care about needs. Not just men who are willing to do stuff when asked, but notices the need and looks for ways to take care of them. **Practical Examples:**

Thinking about this in terms of our Mission Statement: Elders/Pastor primary task is to Help you KNOW JESUS CHRIST. Deacons primary tasks are to Help us Serve the Community and Be the Church. It's really cool when you see a strong diaconate. **Heartbeat of a local church.**

- A. **Deacon/Director of Congregational Care** (Poor, Needy, Sick). We have someone in our church that needs clothes for winter, we have someone who needs help moving furniture, cleaning out garage, doing dump run, we have someone who needs groceries/food, etc. And that's just our family! Haha! We have someone who's family member just died. Someone getting married. Baby showers. Meal chain. Prayer Ministry. Recruit! Visit people in need. Help Widows, Single Moms (orphans), etc.
- B. **Deacon/Director of Community Care** (Poor, Needy, Sick, General Public). Trash pick up day. "Is church going to do it?" I'd love to. Would you be willing to coordinate, recruit/communicate with volunteers, get announcement info to Shanez for church, show up and champion that? Easter Egg Hunt, Back-to-School, Summer Movies. Christian Help work day.
- C. **Deacon/Director of Facility Care** (Building & Grounds). I've noticed that there's been a broken light. Can I take care of that for you? Buy bulbs. We're out of paper towels. I'm gonna get those. Reimbursement/budget. We don't have cups/plates. Buy supplies. Trash to dump. Clean out closets. Finish painting. Recruit people to help. You notice the need. **Future construction projects and repairs.**

Elders are the **head** of the local church; the Deacons are the **heart**. Elders are over the spiritual care/needs in the local church, Deacons are over the physical care/needs.