

## DEACONS

There are only a few references to deacons in the Bible. The word deacon, listed several times in the New Testament, is the Greek word *diakonos* which means minister, servant, attendant, waiter. Therefore, this would be one who serves in the church – one who serves the body and meets the needs of the body, especially in the administration of goods, foods and administrative assistance.

In Acts, the apostles were so involved in studying, preaching, praying and other spiritual matters that they didn't have time for the more mundane, but much needed ministry of supplying the physical necessities or needs of the flock.

*Acts 6:2-4     “And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.*

*But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.*

*But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.’”*

So, we see the deacons as ones that are there for helping in meeting the needs of the body, and in doing so, freeing the priests to minister – a supporting role in which one may not be seen, but is crucial in everyday church operations

The deacons are important as seen by the qualifications listed in Acts 6:3 above, as well as those enumerated in 1 Titus 3.

**1 Timothy 3:8-13**

*“Deacons likewise {must be} men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,*

*{but} holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.*

*And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.*

*Women {must} likewise {be} dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.*

*Let deacons be husbands of {only} one wife, {and} good managers of {their} children and their own households.*

*For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”*

One can see that deciding on a deacon it is a highly selective process. They are to be examples to the flock, be of good reputation and highly thought of in the church. The deacon is the consummate servant who is readily available and willing to go to great lengths behind the scene to make things go smoothly. This is a ministry that demands commitment, which can be very costly in terms of time, and will oftentimes be a thankless endeavor, as a good deacon “keeps the ship afloat” from the shadows.