

Deacons

Acts 6

Integral to the function of the church

Why is it so hard to be a deacon

- Not allowed to do the work
- Don't know what work is
- Some have position without a task

What is a deacon

Meaning of the word: One who executes the commands of another such as a servant, attendant, waiter, or minister.

30 times in Greek, transliterated only three times. Otherwise, servant or minister.

Verb form 37 times (two times called deacon) other times serve or minister.

67 times used ordinary as servant or minister

5 time used as a title for an office

(Discuss Phoebe in Romans 16)

What do they do?

Free up elders and preachers in work, Acts 6:1-7

no job description, that's all they could do

things only elders can do, preachers, deacons fill in gaps

Work under oversight of elders, acts 20:28

Acts 20:28 Elders over all the flock

But given the authority and resources to get it done

Point of having deacons is to free up, not tie down the church

Involve others in the work, exodus 18:

People people:

Jethro and Moses, Exodus 18:17: find thousands, hundreds, tens,
bring big stuff to Moses

Most important work is people: how can you help people grow and be involved.

Qualifications 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Reverent/grave: serious about their work.. Honorable, dignified

Not double tongued: Not speak one thing and really mean another

Not given to much wine: Figure of speech. Means not controlled by alcohol

Not greedy for money: Finances in order, honest in financial dealings

Hold fast mystery of the faith with pure conscience: not pulled by false doctrine

Proven: Reputation and experience in the task (Greek names in Acts)

Husband of one wife: one woman man

Ruling children and houses well: children and wife supportive and not hinderance

1 Tim. 3:11 Like wise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

Their women....Female deacons? Not many qualifications, no where else mentioned, context in middle seems strange, even if so: no authority over men