

Paul's Vision for the Deacons

Chapters 2-3

I. Overseers and Deacons

1. What are the general responsibilities of an “overseers”?
2. What is a term for overseer that sometimes confuses people today regarding this office?
3. What kind of ministry does the term overseer imply according to 1 Pet. 5:1-2?
4. What is another title given to the overseer in scripture?
5. What differences are there between the two terms of overseer and elder?
6. According to Acts 20:17-29, what is one of the primary responsibilities of an elder?
7. What three responsibilities of elders is seen in 1 Timothy 5:17-18?
8. Look at the following verses to understand one more aspect of the overseers responsibility to the flock.
1 Pet. 5:1-2
1 Tim 3:5
Jas. 5:14
Tit. 1:7

What is one major area where many churches have misunderstood the office of an elder and how has the “elder board” therefore been used?
9. Name several English words used for deacon in the Bible?
10. Is the office of “deacon” defensible through the Scriptures, and where can you turn to show that it is indeed a NT office?

11. What main role does the author see for the Deacon to fulfill?
12. But what two areas of ministry do we see deacons performing in the Acts 6 passage?
13. What is one way the two offices may overlap?
14. What are some areas of potential conflict between deacons and elders?.
15. Can and should the elders be capable of doing all that the deacon does?
16. Can and should the deacon be capable of doing all the elder is required to do in Scripture?
17. What kind of hard feelings can develop between the deacons and the elders due to the very nature of their two office?
18. What is the best way to alleviate the typical relational breakdowns between these two groups of servants?