

Fundamentals Of The Church

Dirty Deacons

(I Ti 3:9-10)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
 - a. We looked last week at "Stinky Shepherds."
 - b. Today we will focus on "Dirty Deacons."
3. Deacon lessons...
 - a. Lessons on deacons seem to be few and far between, unless we are preaching on the qualifications and specifically the "much wine" aspect.
 - b. This in my opinion has led a lot of deacons to really not totally understand what God expects from them.
 - i. There is more to it than just be "in charge" of a certain task.
4. Let us examine this most needed area of organization of the church which God established.

I. Deacon

A. Defining deacon

1. Greek word "διάκονος" or "diakonos"
 - i. "primarily denotes a "servant," whether as doing servile work, or as an attendant rendering free service, without particular reference to its character." (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (147). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
 - ii. "one who serves as a deacon, with responsibility to care for the needs of believers—'deacon, one who helps the believers.'" (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament : Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (540). New York: United Bible societies.)

B. Deacons therefore are not...

1. Deacons are not CEO's of the church they are the "grunt" workers of the church and thus "Dirty Deacons."
 - i. Deacons should be dirty from all the hard physical work they put into serving the congregation.
2. Deacons for far to long in the church have thought of themselves more highly than they should and it is time they get back to "doing" what they should.

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II. Deacons Must Have Direction

- A. They must have specific responsibilities
 - 1. **Ac 6:1-3** "Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business"¹
- B. They must then be focused on their responsibilities
 - 1. **I Co 9:24-26** "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air."
 - 2. **He 12:1** "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"

III. Deacons Must Be Hard Working

- A. They must be hard working physically
 - 1. **Pr 10:16** "The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin."
 - 2. **Pr 14:23** "In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty."
 - 3. **Jn 6:27** "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."
- B. They must be hard working emotionally
 - 1. **Je 20:9** "Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name." But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not."
 - 2. **Ac 4:18-20** "So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.""

IV. Deacons Must Be Heavy Hearted

- A. They must have a deep love for the position
 - 1. This is not an easy work. It is labor intensive, it is thankless, and it is difficult.
 - 2. However it is rewarding, uplifting, and a benefit to the Lord's church.

¹ All scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- B. They must have a deep love for the church
 - 1. **I Jn 3:17** "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"
 - 2. **I Th 4:9-10** "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more"
 - 3. **I Pt 1:22** "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart"

CONCLUSION

- 1. Being a deacon is not the easiest of jobs nor is it always the most popular but it is a job that is vital and a job that if done correctly will help in the glory and edification of the church.
 - a. Let us strive for this most important role of organization from God's most perfect plan.
- 2. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**