

1 Making A Difference

The Work of The Deacon

Acts 6:1-7

September 9, 2018

The early church set the example of living in the **context of unity!** Their unity was a **Powerful Testimony** that swept Jerusalem and as a result, many in that city came to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Unity in The Church is a power that has a positive effect not only to the saved within the church itself but also on the lost world around it. The church grew at a phenomenal rate as a result of being a **Unified body of believers.**

Growth Rate:

- Acts 1:15 – 120 disciples
- **Acts 2:41** – 3,000 disciples
- **Acts 4:4** – the number of MEN was about 5,000

Johnny Hunt: Important Principle: “**Biblical** church organization responds to needs and to what the Spirit is already doing. To organize a program and then expect the Holy Spirit to get involved in it is to put the ‘cart before the horse.’ We dare not try to force the Spirit to fit our mold. Organization is never an end in itself, but only a means to facilitate what the Lord is doing in His Church.”

If the work of God is going to get done there must be **willing workers.** Each and every Christian has that responsibility.

Titus 3:8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to **insist** on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to **devote themselves to good works**. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a **gift, use it** to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Now, God has given a **Specific** group of servants to the church known as "**Deacons**".

Deacon: diakonos **Meaning:** 1) one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister 1a) the servant of a king 1b) a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use 1c) a waiter, one who serves food and drink

In the early church these men were "**servants**" who **assisted** the elders/overseers/pastors of the church. These were men who knew how to serve and how to serve well. In the 21st century **we need men** who will follow in the footsteps of the original deacons.

Let me point out **Six Observations** about the first deacons.

I. The Work of The Deacon Involves a Cause (1)

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a **complaint by the Hellenists** arose **against the Hebrews** because **their widows** were being neglected in the daily distribution.

The deacons were appointed when the work became too large.

II. **The Work of The Deacon Involves a Calling** (2) And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

The deacons were appointed when the word of God could have been neglected.

III. **The Work of The Deacon Involves a Choosing** (3) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

The deacons were appointed when Godly Men were available.

IV. **The Work of The Deacon Involves a Concern** (4) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The deacons were appointed when leaders had their priorities straight.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

V. **The Work of The Deacon Involves a Consecration** (5-6) And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and

Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. (6) These they set before the apostles, and **they prayed and laid their hands on them.**

VI. **The Work of The Deacon** Involves a **Consequence (7)** And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the **disciples multiplied greatly** in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The deacons were appointed and the **Church grew.**

Conclusion: Napoleon's men came into the borders of Russia. Greeted by one big robust Russian man holding an ax. The generals were impressed by his bravery and decided to let him live after branding his hand with the letter "N"; they then said "you belong to Napoleon." The man took his ax and cut off his hand saying Napoleon may have my hand but never my heart.

WHO HAS YOUR HEART?

If you are a **Believer in Jesus Christ** your heart belongs to Jesus.

Which means you should have a **Servants Heart!**

A Deacon is a man who has a **servants heart** and is willing to use it to serve in the local Church!

Praise Team Takes The Platform