

Lesson 8 – The Deacons (Organization of the Church Part 3) – Outline

I. The origin of the deacon. Read Acts 6:1-7

- A. At first, pastors evidentially handled the administration of relief, and many temporal [relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs] duties of the church.
- B. This finally became such a time-consuming task that these pastors were having to neglect their prayers and the study of God's Word.
- C. God directed that that seven men be appointed to relieve the pastors of this task. These men were the first deacons.

II. The ordination of the deacons. Read Acts 6:6-7

- A. This is the account of the ordination of the first deacons.
- B. To ordain means to set aside publicly, under the leadership of God by the laying on of hands.
- C. The ordination of a deacon is permanent. The deacon may not always be actively engaged as such but he still continues to be a deacon.

III. The Qualifications of a deacon. These qualifications are not much different than those of a pastor. Read 1 Tim 3:8-13.

IV. The duties of the deacon. Read Acts 6:2-3

- A. The only duties for deacons are given in Acts 6:2-3.
 - 1. They were appointed over the task of administering relief.
 - 2. They were to relive the pastor of this task. The deacons were to become pastor helpers.

- B. It has become the established custom for churches to have their deacons handle matters of discipline, serve the Lord's Supper, receive the Lord's offering, etc. They should serve in the capacity that the church directs. Above this, they have no authority.
- C. New Testament deacons were soul-winners and great men of God
- V. Our duties toward the deacons. We should honor the deacons, loving and praying for them, and cooperating with them in the service of the Master.

Questions:

1. What are the origins of the deacons?
2. Name some of the personal qualifications for a deacon?
3. Name some of the duties of the a deacon.
4. What are some of the church's duties towards deacons?

Discussion: Name our deacon and discuss his duties.

Assignment:

- Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 3:8 ⁸*Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;*
- Identify our church treasurer, our trustees, Sunday school superintendent, and clerk.

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- I. The origin of the deacon. Read Acts 6:1-7** *¹And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. ²Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. ³Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. ⁵And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: ⁶whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*
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III. The Qualifications of a deacon. These qualifications are not much different than those of a pastor. Read 1 Tim 3:8-13.

- *⁸Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;*
- *⁹holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*
- *¹⁰And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.*
- *¹¹Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.*
- *¹²Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*
- *¹³For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

IV. The duties of the deacon. Read Acts 6:2-3 ²*Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

³*Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

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