

THE ORIGIN OF DEACONS & CHURCH UNITY PRESERVED **(Acts 6:1-8)**

I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

A. The BIRTH of the CHURCH in JERUSALEM (1-2)

B. The INFANCY & GROWTH of the CHURCH in JERUSALEM (3-7)

1. The Powerful Miracle and Message of Peter in Jesus' Name (3:1-26)

2. The Persecution, Witness, and Prayer of the Early Church (4:1-31)

3. The Great and Dynamic Early Church (4:32-5:16)

4. The Second Persecution of the Early Church (5:17-42)

5. The Origin of Deacons & Church Unity Preserved (6:1-8)

a) The Definition of a Deacon

1) In a general sense, the term "deacon" (*diakonos*) simply means a _____.

- *How is this term used this way elsewhere in Scripture?*
- *Who is the greatest example of being a servant?*

2) In a specific sense, the term "deacon" is also used of a believer with an _____
_____ of service in the local church.

- *What New Testament passages refer to such deacons?*
- *What do these passages say about the structure of the local church?*

b) The Origin of Deacons in the Early Church (6:1-8)

1) The context of this passage involves a _____ within
the early church at Jerusalem. (v. 1)

- *What did this problem involve?*
- *How was this both a trial and a temptation?*

2) The plan to resolve this problem was _____ and _____ by the twelve apostles. (vv. 2-4)

- *What five general qualifications were stated for these deacons?*
- *Must local churches have a set number of deacons?*

3) These seven chosen servants were to function “_____ this business” but _____ the authority of the apostles. (v. 3)

- *What does this say about the authority of the deacons?*

4) The priority of the apostles involved continual _____ and the ministry of the _____. (v. 4)

- *What does this say about the priorities of deacons vs. the apostles (and later elders)?*

5) Each of the seven chosen servants had _____ names. (v. 5)

- *How did the church respond to this plan?*

6) After the apostles _____, they _____ the choice of the congregation by _____ upon the seven men. (v. 6)

- *What did this act signify in biblical times?*

7) By wisely adding qualified deacons, the early church remained _____, the Word of God _____, and the number of disciples _____. (vv. 7-8)

- *How is the term “great” used here and what does this imply (cf. 4:33; 5:5, 11)?*
- *What lessons can we learn from all this?*