



Grace Life Church *of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God



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Deacons-A Biblical Perspective

Part 2

1 Timothy 3:8-13 & Acts 6:1-7

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Glorify God in all

1 Corinthians 10:31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*

This is a command from scripture and it is the desire of the true believer's heart (personally & corporately)

How do we know if we are glorifying God?

Obedience to His revealed word

Deacons (Servants)

- Deacon-*diakonos* –Server (Servant)
 - Commonly used NT word typically translated servant, serving, to serve
- There is a specific gift of service (Romans 12:4-7)
- In 1 Timothy 3:8-13 & Philippians 1:1, the word *diakonos* is transliterated showing the official office of Deacon
 - 1 Timothy 3:8-13 gives specific qualifications
 - Deacons are to be tested (present tense)
- In the world, the servant is typically thought of as low or insignificant
 - Matthew 20:26 *But whoever would be great among you must be your servant*
- God has given two offices for the church: Elder/Overseer/Pastor and Deacon
 - The role of deacon in the church is indispensable

Deacons (Servants)

- Deacons serve the local church (Lead in service as examples)
 - This does NOT mean the deacons do all the work now
 - Every member ministry (1 Cor 12:12-26, Romans 12:4-8)
 - The deacons lead in service (examples/organizers/doers of service)
- Other than using the word (deacon=servant), not much else is said regarding the specific role of deacon
- Turn to Acts 6:1-7

Acts 6:1-7

- I am not saying this is the office of deacon
- There are numerous parallels to the functions of the office of deacon
- The concept/spirit of the office is present (there is something to be gleaned)
- As we consider what is happening in Acts 6, let's be thinking about the function of deacons (in our local body)

V1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number

- As the local assembly begins to increase, needs increase and the need for organization increases

Acts 6:1-7

V1 a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution

- Hellenists are Jews from Diaspora (Greek speaking/practices)
- Church should meet the needs of widows (1 Timothy 5)
- Complaints/Issues regarding needs/service in the church will arise

V2 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”

- The complaint was first taken to the apostles
- The apostles ministry is teaching/preaching the word of God
 - The teaching/preaching of the word of God is a priority in the church and must always be a priority

Acts 6:1-7

What is the ministry of overseers/elders/pastors? (parallel)

The word of God and prayer

- Shepherd: By feeding the sheep the word, protecting the sheep with the word, leading the sheep by following the word (1 Peter 5:2-3, 2 Tim 4:2, 1 Tim 4:13)
- Oversee: Rule according to the word, Oversee through teaching (1 Tim 3:1-2, 2 Tim 2:15, 24), pastor through the teaching of the word (Eph 4:11-16)

The apostles do NOT say “Meeting the needs of the saints isn’t important” but rather ask “How can we meet these needs while not taking away from the Word of God and prayer?”

V3 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. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word”

- Choose qualified men
- Appoint them to this duty (Service *diakoneō*)
- In the church there must be the ministry of the word/prayer (pastor/elder) and the ministry of service/needs (deacon)
- These complimentary, yet distinct roles/offices are both essential and when functioning properly empower each other

Acts 6:1-7

- Deacons recognize the essential need for the ministry of the word/prayer in the church and use their gifts of service to encourage and propel the ministry of the word/prayer by making sure the needs/service are met
- Out of love and coupled with gifting, deacons desire to serve the church body, and meet their needs
 - Not just giving food, money, service but love (Gospel centered)

When the deacons are fulfilling their calling/function, it allows the elders/pastors to fulfill their calling (The church benefits and God is glorified)

Acts 6:1-7

v5-6 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. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

- God provided a means (before pastors/deacons) for the ministry of the Word to thrive, while meeting the physical needs of the church body
- Later He gave pastors and deacons

What were the effects?

V7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith

Summary

- Deacons are God's gift to the church to meet the physical needs in the church (Service)
- Deacons are God's gift to the church to help maintain and propel the ministry of the Word

Grace Life Church needs deacons and after much prayer and examination:

Steve Mercer and Phil George

- These men (and their wives) meet the qualification found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- They are humble men gifted in serving
- They see the church's responsibility to meet the needs of the church body
- They see the importance of protecting the ministry of the Word
- They are willing to serve the body in any capacity to glorify God
- If, in the future, these men fail to meet the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, they will be disqualified in serving the church in this office
- And now with joy, I would like to publically affirm Steve Mercer & Phil George as deacons of Grace Life Church in Dallas