



Deacons

The Bible teaches that deacons lead by serving

The qualifications for elders and deacons are the same regarding an individual's character, but they differ in aptitude. The elders are to be able to teach, while the deacons are able and proved servants.

Deacon Qualifications: 1 Timothy 3:8-12

Individual of dignity

Above reproach

Not double tongued

First tested as servants

Not addicted to wine

Spouses must be faithful

Dignified

Temperate

Not fond of sordid gain

Holding to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience

Husband of one wife

Manages household well

In the New Testament, the word usually translated "serve" is the Greek word diakoneo. It refers to an attendant, a waiter, or one who ministers to another. From this word we get the English word "deacon."

The concept of deacons may arise out of Acts 6, *"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'"* (Acts 6:2).

The men who were giving themselves to feeding the flock by preaching and teaching realized that it wasn't right for them to leave those activities to wait tables, so they found some other men who were willing to serve, and put them in place to minister to the church's physical needs while the elders or pastors ministered to their spiritual needs.

Today at Grace these roles are essentially the same. Elders or pastors are to "preach the word...reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2), and deacons are to be appointed to take care of most everything else. This might include taking on administrative or organizational tasks, ushering, being responsible for building maintenance, or finances.

It depends on the need and the gifts of the available men.

The responsibilities of a deacon are not clearly listed or outlined; they are assumed to be everything that does not include the duties of an elder or pastor, which is to preach, teach, and exhort and general spiritual authority.

“For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 3:13).

The practical duties at Grace may include but are not limited to organizing and maintaining oversight of such areas as:

Ushers/offering and schedules

Welcomers

Prayer volunteers for after service

Communion setup

Sound and Web ministries

Property and Security of facility

Emergency aid if needed

There may be other practical areas of service that will be needed in the worship and maintenance of the church.