



What Are Deacons? Part 1 | Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

4/30/23

How are churches organized?

- **Philippians 1:1**, 1689:26:8
- What are elders/overseers/pastors?
- So what are deacons?

The Beginning of Deacons (Acts 6:1-7)

The church was threatened by division

The apostles needed to guard their main function

The church picks seven men to care for this ministry

- Qualifications: Men of good repute, full of the Spirit and wisdom
- These men are set aside for a distinct ministry
- Result: The ministry of the Word continues to be blessed (7)

Takeaways for Deacons

- We see a division of labor to guard the ministry of the Word
- Character is central (Good reputation, Spirit, wisdom)

- Deacons value the church
 - The church and its unity
 - The people of the church
- Deacons solve problems

1 Timothy 3:8-13

- Deacons are subordinate to elders (Phil 1:1 and 1 Tim 3)
- Deacons don't have a specific list of responsibilities

Character Qualifications

- Dignified: Respectable, well thought-of
- Not double tongued (Cf Eph 4:25)
- Not a drunkard (Cf Eph 5:18)
- Not greedy for dishonest gain (Cf 1 Tim 6:10)

Next Steps

1. In Acts 6, we see a division of labor in church life. What is that division? Why is it important?
2. In Acts 6, we don't yet have the formal office of deacon. But we see characteristics that will apply to deacons. What truths can we take away from this passage about deacons?
3. A deacon is required to be dignified/respectable. How does life in the church help us to evaluate this characteristic in others? How can Christians learn from this requirement, even if they are not deacons?