



The NT Deacon

SERVANT-LEADERS ON A MISSION

I. Their Focus

- ▶ **Acts 6:1-7**
- ▶ If these men are the predecessors of the office of deacon, then this is the beginning of a *distinction* in NT offices.
- ▶ Don't *blur* this line.

I. Their Focus

- ▶ This distinction provides “freedom for heavy lifting” in two directions:
 - A. **Exposition of Word (Elders/Pastors)**
 - B. **Exposition of Needs (Deacons)**

I. Their Focus

- ▶ “Deacons are ***shock-absorbers*** in the local church....Pastors/Elders lead ministry, deacons facilitate ministry, the congregation does ministry. That, I believe, is the NT model, and that biblical clarity in deacons’ role and function is invaluable for promoting peace and unity in our congregations.”

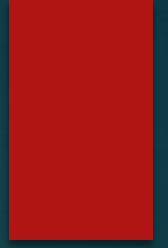
Jamie Dunlop

9Marks eJournal, May/June 2010

II. Their Eyes

- ▶ **Principle**—Areas of *responsibility* create areas of *vigilance*.
- ▶ **Question**—What kind of *needs* do the NT deacon see?
 - A. **Corporate Unity (6:1)**
 - B. **Physical Relief (6:2b, 3b)**

III. Their Example



▶ 1Tim 3:8-13

- A. Reverent
- B. Committed to integrity in communication
- C. Self-controlled
- D. Content with provisions
- E. Truth-saturated
- F. Faithful and morally pure
- G. Home display of truth

IV. Their Faithfulness

- ▶ **1Tim 3:13**
- ▶ **Observation**—This one verse is the *narrative* of every NT deacon's *life*. Every element points to *Christ*, not to the deacon.
 - A. **Sustainability**
 - B. **Visibility**
 - C. **Believability**

V. Their Burden

- ▶ **Phil 1:1-5**
- ▶ I am struck by Paul's *breadth* of prayers and *specificity* of prayers...including pastors and deacons.
- ▶ A church of such *joy* is the product of Paul's prayers...and faithful pastors and deacons.

5 Reasons I Am Thankful for the NT Deacon

- Their *Focus*** Narrows my focus
- Their *Eyes*** Spot our needs
- Their *Example*** Helps our growth
- Their *Faithfulness*** Magnifies our Lord
- Their *Burden*** Enters our prayers



The NT Deacon

SERVANT-LEADERS ON A MISSION