

Sunday, January 30th
Title: “Deacons”
Text: Acts 6:1–7
Series: Deacon Appointment Sunday

1. Deacons exist to serve the congregation (vv. 1–7).

2. Deacons promote unity in the flock (v. 1)

Acts 6

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

3. Deacons alleviate the burden on pastors / elders (v. 2, 4)

² 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.”³ 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. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

4. Deacons serve Christ’s disciples in practical matters (v. 2)

² 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.

5. Deacons exemplify Christlike service (v. 3)

³ 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.

6. Deacons are “picked out” from among the congregation, but appointed by the elders (vv. 3, 5–6).

³ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

7. Deacons effect the spiritual flourishing of the church (v. 7).

⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Deacons:

Serve the Flock – The office of deacon came into existence to serve the church in tangible, practical matters (Acts 6:1–6).

Exemplify Service – One must be “tested first” (1 Timothy 3:10) before being recognized to the office of deacon because deacons exemplify Christlike service to the church.

Promote Unity – The existence of deacons promotes unity among otherwise fractured groups of the church (Acts 6:1–6).

Alleviate the Burden on Pastors / Elders – Deacons are motivated to serve in part by the need to enable pastors / elders to “devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word” (Acts 6:4).

Care for the Church’s Physical Needs – Deacons carry out service enabling the church’s practical matters to function smoothly (Acts 6:2).

Care for those in Great Need – Deacons serve in practical matters for the good of people. Often diaconate service benefits the neediest (e.g., “widows...being neglected in the daily distribution,”) (Acts 6:1).