

DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE

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

Introduction: Studying the early church situation, it is noted that there was no central meeting place and there were various ministries going on such as distributing food, clothing, money and other material goods. It was believed that Jesus was coming back at any time, so some quit their jobs, sold their belongings and were without the necessities of life as Jesus delayed His return. The pastors (Apostles) were trying to guide all the ministries plus study, pray, preach, witness, visit the sick and many other duties. It didn't take very long for some to begin to grumble. the Gentile (Greek) members felt they were not getting equal treatment and benefits as the Jews, therefore an emergency situation came up and the pastors needed help.

Therefore the pastors called upon the church to help out by selecting somebody from within their membership to help. This sounded good to the church family so they selected seven men to take over meeting the material needs of the members, freeing up the pastors to do their spiritual things, this was the basic, fundamental purpose of these seven selected men. To serve tables in a sense.

Today in most church families changes have occurred concerning the "selected" (who are also called deacons) and many of these changes are not scriptural. The primary, basic role of a "deacon" is to serve those who selected him, to free up the pastor of having to provide the material ministries and duties for the church family.

I. QUALIFICATIONS OF A DEACON (SERVANT) Acts 6:1-6 1 Timothy 3:8-13

1. He must have an "honest report," have a good reputation.
2. He must be full of the Holy Spirit, thus a spiritual man, showing evidence of a spirit led life.
3. He must be full of wisdom, common sense.
4. He must be grave, serious, when necessary.
5. He must not be double tongued. Never altering the truth, not telling one person one thing and changing it for another, nor should he be a gossip.
6. He must not be a wine drinker to excess.
7. He must not be guilty of filthy lucre, not covetous, not driven by the desire to have, but have his priorities in order.
8. He must be of a pure conscience about his beliefs, not hypocritical, acting like a Christian while his heart is not true to the Christ or the Church.
9. He must be proved, investigated, tested, experienced.
10. He must be blameless, give no cause to be blamed.
11. He must be the head of his family and have only one wife.

II. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE DEACON'S WIFE 1 Timothy 3:11

1. She must be grave, serious minded when she needs to be.
2. She must not be slanderous or a backbiter, critical or a gossip.
3. She must be sober, mature, alert, aware of what's going on.
4. She must be faithful to the Lord, to her husband to her family and to her Church.

5. A wife will either bring her deacon husband much strength or bring him strife and render him useless to his Church family.

III. WHAT MAY THE CHURCH EXPECT OF THE DEACON?

1. The deacon is to serve as the Church directs.
2. He is to aid the pastor by helping provide for the material needs of the Church family.
3. He is to resign or become voluntarily inactive if he or his wife become no longer qualified as the Scripture outlines or if he is not in agreement with Church directives.

IV. WHAT MAY THE DEACON EXPECT OF HIS CHURCH?

1. He may expect their prayers.
2. He may expect their cooperation.
3. He may expect their support.
4. He may expect their understanding and patience.

V. THE CHALLENGE:

To The Deacon Elect:

1. Do your best to live up to the qualifications and resign when you are disqualified.
2. Serve this Church with all your heart and be loyal to them as you are to Jesus Christ.

To The Church:

1. Pray for this man.
2. Forgive him when he errs.
3. Work, cooperate with him.

VI. THE CHARGE:

To The Deacon: (Call Him by Name)

1. Will you promise to try to live so that you may honor Christ by your life?
2. Will you promise, in the presence of this, your Church family, to accept the office of Deacon in this Church and to the best of your knowledge and ability to discharge all duties of this office?
3. Will you also promise these, your Church family, that if you ever become scripturally unfit to serve as Deacon that you will willingly and voluntarily ask to be placed on inactive status until you become qualified again?

To The Church:

1. Do you, members of this Church, acknowledge _____ (His Name) _____ as Deacon in the Church, and do you promise to encourage him and pray for him and to cooperate with him as he seeks to serve you and our Lord?
2. Church family, you selected this man and he has indicated a willingness to serve.
 - God's Word, His guidelines have been given and this man has been challenged.
 - Now IF you, members of this congregation, acknowledge this man as a Deacon of this Church..
 - IF you promise to encourage and pray for him,
 - IF you also promise to cooperate with him in the fulfillment of the mission of this Church,
 - Then.....

VII. LAYING ON OF HANDS

1. Let the ordained or this Church family come by this man, lay your hands upon him signifying your approval and acceptance of him.
2. After the ordained have passed by, Church family come by this man, lay your hands upon him signifying your approval and acceptance of him.

VIII. PRAYER OF BLESSING

IX. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE

X. BENEDICTION