

DEACONS, HELPMATES TO THE PASTOR

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

Introduction: Discuss the need of deacons found in Acts 1:1-6 and then discuss their qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The need and purpose of deacons, basically, is to help the Pastor minister to the needs of the Church family.

I. DEACONS ARE TO SERVE THE "TABLE" OF THE CHURCH

1. Church members need to be ministered to in many ways, some physically, some monetarily, some spiritually, some emotionally, but sooner or later every member needs special attention.
2. Church members have a tendency to grumble and complain about things when they are not satisfied or uncomfortable or have questions.
3. The text points out that the Church membership selected the men at the request of their pastors and the membership chose those who they wanted to serve and care for them.
4. The need is the same today. It is impossible for the pastor to adequately minister to every member of his Church family, therefore the pastor asks the Church family to select men to serve them. Upon their choice, the selected men are then to be set aside for the purpose of serving the Church.
5. The men selected need to be made aware that to be selected by one's Church family for anything is an honor, but to be selected to serve as a deacon is the highest honor the Church family can give to them/him.

II. DEACONS ARE TO SERVE THE LORD'S TABLE

1. As often as the Church family celebrates the Lord's Supper, they are remembering the Lord Jesus and all that He has done and is doing and will do.
2. As servants of their Church Family, deacons are to help them remember the Lord and what He has done.
3. The Lord's Supper is an honorable and holy service and it should be done with all the dignity that can be created.
4. Deacons, think about it, it is a wonderful think to help someone renew his/her fellowship with the Lord.

III. DEACONS ARE TO SERVE THE PASTOR'S TABLE

1. Helping take the load off the pastor is the reason for deacons in the first place. Pastors need to be free to minister to their Church family spiritually.
 - Deacons are to take care of the material and other needs of their Church family.

2. Most pastors have at least three messages per week to preach, there being two on the Lords' day and one in mid-week (Wednesday).
 - It takes the pastor several hours per message to adequately prepare for delivery to the people, therefore he needs help in ministering to the other needs of the Church family.
 - The pastor has to choose his priorities: visiting the sick, counselling, marriages, funerals, church business, personal situations, witnessing/visiting prospects, etc.
 - No matter what the pastor is involved in doing, there always seems to be a greater need he needs to be attending to. Deacons are greatly needed to help the pastor.

3. Deacons serving the Church family will free the pastor to serve and help the Church family better in spiritual matters.

DEACON COMMITAL: (Challenge and their answer of "YES")

1. Will you (names) do your best to serve the Lord and the family of (name the Church) with all your heart?
2. Will you (names) be faithful to the programs and services that this Church provides and will you do your best to set an example in attending, serving and giving?
3. Lastly, if you become disqualified, according to the scriptures and this Church's qualifications, will you willingly remove yourself from active service of deacon?

CHURCH COMMITAL: (Challenge and their answer of "YES")

1. Church family, are you now willing to express your aproval of these (this) men?
2. Are you now ready to give these men your blessing and support?
3. Are you now ready to commend these men to service in this Church and to the Lord as Deacons?
4. If so, will you join those already "ordaing" in the "laying on of your hands?"

LAYING ON OF HANDS:

1. It is a token of Christian love and fellowship and of approval.
2. It is an Old Testament method of blessing (Jacob and Joseph's sons, etc).
3. It is an Old Testament sign of official recognition (Moses charging Joshua, etc.).
4. It is the New Testament sign of commendation to God's service (Paul and Barnabas as missionaries).
5. Those already ordained first lay hands on those being ordained, then the rest of the Church family lay their hands on those being ordained.

CONCLUSION:

1. Upon the completion of laying on of hands by everyone, all are asked to join hands, for all are a part of the Church family, are "one" in God's sight.
2. A prayer is then made of blessing upon those who have been ordained and upon those whom the ordained will be serving, the Church family.