

# Sermon

## **The Role of Deacons**

*Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13*

**Jeff Jackson**

**“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”**

“The primary spiritual leaders of a congregation are the elders, who are also called overseers or pastors in the New Testament. Elders teach or preach the Word and shepherd the souls of those under their care (*Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9; Heb. 13:17*). Deacons, too, have a crucial role in the life and the health of the local church, but their role is different from the elders’. The biblical role of deacons is to take care of the physical and logistical needs of the church so that the elders can concentrate on their primary calling.”

## **Acts 6:1-7**

In those days, as the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. Then the Twelve summoned the whole company of the disciples and said, “It would not be right for us to give up preaching about God to handle financial matters. Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the preaching ministry.” The proposal pleased the whole company. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte from Antioch. They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the preaching about God flourished, the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

## **1 Timothy 3:8-13**

Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And they must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons. Wives, too, must be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything. Deacons must be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently. For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves, and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

## **I. The Definition of Deacon**

A. διάκονος-

B.

## II. The Origin of Deacons

- A.
- B.
- C.

## III. The Qualifications of Deacons

### A. Attributes found in Scripture

- **Dignified (v. 8):**
- **Not double-tongued (v. 8):**
- **Not addicted to much wine (v. 8):**
- **Not greedy for dishonest gain (v. 8):**
- **Sound in faith and life (v. 9):**
- **Blameless (v. 10):**
- **Godly wife (v. 11):**
- **Husband of one wife (v. 12):**
- **Manage children and household well (v. 12):**

### **Matthew 20:28**

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others

### **Conclusion:**

#### **John Wesley**

One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us