



Date: June 22, 2025

Series: Back to Basics

Title: Life in the Body: Deacons: Servants of the Church

Text: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philippians 1:1

I. INTRODUCTION

“God has given us a beautiful and effective model of church leadership—elders and deacons—that promotes unity, accountability, spiritual care, and faithful service.”

Alexander Strauch

II. THE ORIGIN OF DEACONS: WHY DO WE HAVE THEM?

Acts 6:1-7

- A. **The Reason** - In Acts chapter 6 we see the church face its first serious organizational crisis and it is felt among the people. (v. 1-2; 4)
- B. **The Requirements** - We see the apostles urge the church to select a specific group of men to supply the necessary needs. (v. 3)
- C. **The Roster** - These seven men played an instrumental role in the foundational history of the church. (v. 5-6)
- D. **The Results** - Purposeful organization can help meet the needs of the church so it can flourish as it was created to do. (v. 7)

III. THE ROLE OF DEACONS: WHAT DO THEY DO?

Diakonos - “servant”	(Matt. 23:11, Rom. 13:4)
Diakonia - “service” or “ministry”	(Acts 6:4, Eph 4:12)
Diakoneō - “to serve”	(Mark 10:45. Luke 10:40)

“Deacons are model servants—boots-on-the-ground ministers of mercy.” (Matt Smethurst)

IV. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS: WHO CAN SERVE?

1 Timothy 3:8-13

- A. **Godly Character & Spiritual Life** (v. 8-10)

- B. **Moral Purity & Household Leadership** (10b, 12)
- C. **Reward and Blessing** (v. 13)
- D. **Women Serve as Deacons?** (v. 11)

V. CHRIST: THE ULTIMATE DEACON

Mark 10:45

“The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion.” (John Stott)

VI. BECOMING A SERVANT-HEARTED CHURCH

- A. To Those Who Serve as Deacons
- B. To Those Aspiring to Serve as Deacons
- C. To The Whole Church

VII. CONCLUSION: DEACONS ARE VISIBLE TESTIMONIES OF AN INVISIBLE SAVIOR

“Although deacons are not public teachers of God’s Word, their work is just as spiritual and Christlike as the work of elders. When deacons show mercy to the hurting, preserve unity in the congregation, or meet practical needs in the name of Christ, they make the love and servant-heart of Jesus visible to the church and to the watching world.” - Alexander Strauch

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. In Acts 6, the early church responded to growing pains with Spirit-led servant leadership. Are there areas in our church where practical needs are creating tension or distraction—and how might God be calling you to step in to help preserve unity and enable gospel ministry?
2. For those serving as deacons: Are you guarding your heart and home to reflect the kind of spiritual maturity and dignity that Paul outlines in 1 Timothy 3:8–13? What area needs renewed attention—speech, integrity, faith, or family leadership?
3. For those aspiring to be deacons: Does your current life reflect the tested, blameless character that precedes appointment in Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3? Would others affirm your faithfulness in both spiritual and practical matters?
4. For every member/regular attender of Harbour Shores: Are you cultivating a church culture that honors and supports servant-leaders—by praying for, encouraging, and partnering with deacons in their ministry?
5. How does the example of those first deacons in Acts 6—chosen for their reputation, wisdom, and fullness of the Spirit—inspire your view of church leadership? What does it look like for you to embody that kind of Spirit-filled service today, even if you never hold an office?