

What are Deacons For, and Should Your Church Have Any?

- I. The office of a deacon is scriptural (under strict conditions), and for a man to hold it he must meet high qualifications (**1Ti 3:8-13**).
 - A. **1Ti 3:8** - Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
 - B. **1Ti 3:9** - Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
 - C. **1Ti 3:10** - And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.
 - D. **1Ti 3:11** - Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.
 - E. **1Ti 3:12** - Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.
 - F. **1Ti 3:13** - For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- II. The only other place in the whole Bible where the word *deacon(s)* is used is in **Phi 1:1**.
 - A. **Phi 1:1** - Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
 - B. The church at Philippi was apparently large, having multiple bishops (pastors) and deacons.
- III. Contrary to the practices of Churchianity, there is only one duty given to deacons in the Bible which is carrying food to widows (**Act 6:1-6**).
 - A. **Act 6:1** - And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.
 - B. **Act 6:2** - Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.
 - C. **Act 6:3** - Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, WHOM WE MAY APPOINT OVER THIS BUSINESS.
 - D. **Act 6:4** - But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
 - E. **Act 6:5** - And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:
 - F. **Act 6:6** - Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.
- IV. Though the word *deacon* is not used in Act 6:1-6, by deduction it must be concluded that these seven men were ordained to the office of a deacon since there are only two offices in the NT church found in scripture: 1) the pastor (1Ti 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9) (which is also called an elder, bishop, overseer, and steward - see the video blog titled "A Pastor is an Elder, Bishop, Overseer, and Steward" for proof that these are different names for the same office), and 2) the deacon (1Ti 3:8-12).
 - A. The seven men in Act 6:1-6 were ordained by the laying on hands (**Act 6:6**) which shows that they held an office and were not just informal helpers.
 - B. They were obviously not ordained to the office of an elder/bishop since they were ordained for the specific purpose of serving widows tables, not teaching or ruling.
 - C. Therefore the only other office they could have been ordained to is that of a deacon.
- V. So what is the duty of a deacon?
 - A. It's very simple: to serve widows tables (**Act 6:3**).
 - B. There is no other duty given to them in scripture.

- C. They do not have the rule in the church; the pastor who teaches the word of God and watches over (oversees) the church does (**Heb 13:7,17; 1Ti 5:17**).
 - 1. **Heb 13:7** - Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.
 - 2. **Heb 13:17** - Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
 - 3. **1Ti 5:17** - Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.
 - D. The deacons (if there are any) do not rule the pastor; they are ruled by the pastor.
- VI. When does a church need a deacon(s)?
- A. When a church has so many widows (who have no family to take care of them (1Ti 5:4)) who need food taken to them that the pastor cannot handle it on his own, then a deacon(s) can be ordained to take care of THAT BUSINESS.
 - B. There is no other scriptural reason for a church to have a deacon.