

## **Setting the Church in Order # 7**

### **The work of Deacons**

#### **Int.**

1. Aim: To discuss the kind of work we can expect from deacons in the congregation.
2. 1 Cor. 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."
  - a. The arrangement, design, and organization of the natural world clearly show that the God who created the universe is a God of order.
  - b. The unity and harmony of the Bible clearly show that the God who inspired the Bible is a God of order.
  - c. It would indeed be most unlikely that such a God would establish a church without any order.
  - d. There must be some kind of organization and leadership in the church or else there will be anarchy and confusion.<sup>1</sup>
3. God's plan of church organization includes deacons as well as elders. They must meet the qualifications given in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 to be appointed. And they should remain qualified to continue to serve.
4. A Deacon is a work not an honorary title.
  - a. Deacons are under the oversight of the elders - Heb. 13:17.
  - b. They are not a board which is to set church policy, make laws and decisions.
  - c. The work of deacons is a work set forth by the Lord and is needed today
5. We will discuss the work of the deacons and the responsibilities of the congregation deacons.

---

<sup>1</sup>Church Leadership & Organization by Flavil R. Yeakley Jr. P. 1

## Discussion

### I. **THE WORK OF DEACONS** - Acts 6:1-7

#### A. Servant

1. Greek word - Diakonos = means a willing servant
2. Thayer "A position of activity in which one is responsible for carrying out the instructions of another."
3. The deacon is a willing servant who is ready to do whatever he is assigned to do by those in the oversight.
4. The deacon should serve in that capacity best suited to their individual talents.

#### B. The elders can delegate responsibilities to the deacons to carry out the work of the church. There are many different ways of dividing up the work in a congregation.

#### C. Seven divisions of work in the church

1. BENEVOLENCE = people in need
  - a. Acts 6:1-8
  - b. Let the deacons care for these things
  - c. Food for the ones in need - pantry - clothing - special needs
  - d. Other requests for help Gal. 6:10
2. Educational
  - a. Mt. 28:20 - 2 Tim. 2:2
  - b. Director of Educational program
    - (1) Teachers - choosing, training
    - (2) Classes - divisions, rooms
    - (3) Materials and literature - Supplies

- c. V.B.S.
- d. The future of any congregation depends largely upon the educational program

3. Regular Worship Services

- a. Assignments of who should lead in worship
- b. Bulletins / Lord's supper prepared and ready
- c. Baptismal garments / Ushers
- d. Effective worship services require planning.
  - (1) Appointments must be made, and someone must be sure that those who are assigned are present and ready to serve.
  - (2) Deacons contribute to orderly services of worship by planning and implementing the plans.

4. Preaching work

- a. Regular - local
- b. Newspaper - Radio, TV, internet
- c. Gospel Meetings, lectureships, Special meetings
- d. Foreign Evangelism

5. Visitation

- a. Organized visitation program
- b. Fellowship meals
- c. Needs of the elderly and shut-ins

6. Personal Evangelism

- a. Reaching the lost
- b. Training the members to teach the lost
- c. Organized program of personal evangelism

7. General - miscellaneous work

- a. Building and grounds - repairs, maintenance, heat, lights, doors locked, yard work, janitorial work, baptistery, remodeling
- b. Treasury - counting money, deposits, paying bills, keep the financial records
- c. Office - secretarial work, printing, bulletin, filing, records, letters

**D. Deacons are necessary**

1. The work of elders is to be responsible for all of the work
2. To do the work they can delegate some matters to the deacons.
3. The elders must have the strong support of the deacons.
  - a. The elders cannot do all the work !!! And they should not try to do it all.
  - b. Acts 6:3 - was talking about the apostles but the lesson applies to elders also
  - c. Deacons can perform many tasks which will allow the elders to give more attention to their work of overseeing the spiritual matters of the church.
4. Deacons are an important part of the total evangelistic team. They are ordained of God and serve out of love for God, the congregation and lost souls.
5. Deacons need to be good leaders:
  - a. When a job or assignment is to be done, the deacon is responsible to see that the job is accomplished.

- b. But he does not have to do it by himself. He should get other members in the congregation to assist in the job.
- c. He should have leadership qualities that will enable him to have cooperation from other members in completing the task.

E. Deacons are not:<sup>2</sup>

- 1. Over the elders - but under the oversight of the elders like all members.
- 2. To monitor the eldership for the congregation to keep them in line.
- 3. To direct the work of the gospel preacher.
- 4. But deacons are servants. Their work is to carry out or perform the work delegated by the elders of the congregation.
- 5. It is sometimes said that the elders are over the spiritual matters and the deacons over material matters.
  - a. This is not found in the Bible.
  - b. Deacons are under the oversight of the elders.
  - c. The elders are responsible for oversight of all the work

F. Assorted thoughts about deacons:

- 1. Being a deacon is a work, not a title of honor.
- 2. The qualifications are different because the work and service of the deacons is different than that of the elders.
- 3. The deacons should serve in that capacity best suited to their individual talents.

---

<sup>2</sup>The Elder and His Work by Robert R. Taylor, Jr. 1978 Lambert Book House p. 170

4. The deacons are special servants or ministers to the church, serving under the oversight of the elders.
5. The elders might call upon the deacons for advice, counsel or information, but the elders have the responsibility of being overseers.
6. The deacons should always have an open line of communication to the eldership to express their personal feeling and suggestions on the welfare of the congregation, but once the decision has been made by the eldership, the deacon should do his best to see that the program is successful.
7. Deacons will get the job done if we'll give them the job, and let them do it.

## **II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE DEACONS**

- A. Be aware of which deacon is in charge of a certain area of work
  1. If you need help in that area then you can call on him
  2. Deacons can serve better if they know who needs to be served
- B. Cooperate and be willing to help the deacons
  1. The deacons will not be able to do the work all by themselves
  2. Many times they must call on different members to assist them
  3. When called upon do your best in that work or assignment
  4. Treat them by the Golden rule. How would you want them to respond if the situation were reversed.

### C. Respect and love them

1. They are an important part of God's plan for the organization and work of the church.
2. Tell them frequently that you appreciate the work they are doing.
3. A compliment goes a long way.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. "The duties of bishops and deacons were, no doubt different; but the degrees of rank and importance of work is just the estimation of men. Some things God has said may appear to us to be more important than some other commands, but we do not know that we are privileged to pronounce them so. However much the functions of the deacons may differ from those of the elders, it is impossible for them to please God and not perform their functions. Hence it is just as necessary that they serve faithfully as deacons as that the elders serve as elders." [G.C. Brewer: The Model Church, P. 99]
2. The organization of the N.T. church was simple and uncomplicated.
3. There were: overseers, servants and saints.
4. 1 Tim. 3:1 "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."
5. When a congregation has qualified elders and deacons working together as they should then:
  - a. There will be peace in the congregation
  - b. There will be growth
  - c. People will be saved.
6. Any congregation that is pleasing to God and is vibrant and active is served by godly deacons.
7. Deacons who serve will have a great reward in Heaven.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com