

DEACON

Origin: 'raising dust by hastening'

one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister

occurs 30 times in the New Testament

- Servant
- Deacon
- Minister

DEACON

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant (diakonos), ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

(Mt 20:25-28)

DEACON

Jesus was a servant – Rom 15:8

Apostles were servants – 2 Cor 6:4

Preachers are servants – 1 Cor 3:5

All Christians are servants – Mk 9:35

Even the government is a servant – Rom 13:4

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

(Php 1:1)

DEACON

Acts 6:1-3

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution (diakonia). ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve (diakoneo) tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

- Deacons are a specific type of servant in the church
- There are specific qualifications for these deacons found in 1 Timothy 3
- Their duties vary per **the needs of the church** and **the needs of the leadership**
- They need to be capable of great responsibility
- They need to be equally trustworthy
- Their reputation and influence will be affected by the office

For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (1 Tim 3:13)

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ELDERS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

- Feed the church the Word (Acts 20:28)
- Tend the flock (1 Pet 5:2)
- Rebuke the false teacher (Tit 1:9)
- Watch over the souls (Heb 13:17)

SECONDARY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE BEST IF THEY CAN BE DELEGATED.

- Bookkeeping
- Building maintenance
- Electronics & Website
- Scheduling & class organization
- Caring for the physical needs of members

DEACONS FOCUS ON THE MATERIAL,

SO ELDERS CAN FOCUS ON THE SPIRITUAL

DEACON

And let them
also be tested
first; then let
them serve as
deacons if they
prove
themselves
blameless.
(1 Tim 3:10)

*The concept of blamelessness carries with it two different, yet not dissimilar ideas. The first refers to sacrificial animals that were “**without defect**” (Lev. 1:3; 3:1, 6; Num. 6:14). Only animals that were undefiled physically were worthy of being offered to the Lord. Sacrificing blemished animals was a violation of biblical law and a demonstration of brazen disrespect for God (Mal. 1:6–14). From this religious ritual idea comes the notion of moral perfection for individuals. “Blameless” people are **those who cannot be accused of wrongdoing before people or God** (Ps. 15:2; 18:23). David prays, “Keep your servant also from willful sin.... Then will I be blameless” (Ps. 19:13). David is seeking blamelessness not in a physical but in a moral sense.*

*Brown, W. E. (1996). Blameless. In *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (electronic ed., p. 66)*

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AS WE LOOK TO NAME MEN FROM
AMONGST OURSELVES AS DEACONS:

- Look for men that meet the qualities found in 1 Tim 3:8-13
- Look for men you consider trustworthy and responsible in their own families
- Look for men already active in congregational work
- Look for men you consider role-models of industry and consistency