

DIACONATE

WHAT IS A DEACON?

The Bible refers to Deacons (and Deaconesses) as men and women charged by God to be servant-leaders in the local church. The very word “*Deacon*” literally means “servant” or “waiter.” Under the leadership of the Elders, they are called to a special ministry of servanthood, especially to those in need (Acts 6:2-3). As an office in the church, God himself has charged them with this responsibility.

In 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7, the New Testament gives us specific qualifications for the Diaconate (a term for all the Deacons and Deaconesses in a local church). In short, Deacons are to have godly character, setting an example for the church to follow.

WHAT DOES A DEACON DO?

Deacons are charged with two main responsibilities in the church: serving people and assisting the Elders.

SERVING PEOPLE

Deacons serve in the church in various ways, depending on the needs. They care for the needy by meeting their practical needs and pointing them to Jesus. They could be key leaders in the church who oversee ministries, such as the kids ministry, worship ministry, serving ministry, etc. They set an example for the church in their life, leadership, and service. (Romans 16:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:13)

ASSISTING THE ELDERS

Deacons perform various duties within the church as assigned to them by the Elders. Elders need Deacons to serve in practical ways, so that the Elders can “devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.” As Elders and Deacons work together, the church flourishes and the mission gains ground. (Acts 6:1-7)