

Appointed Servants Acts 6:1-6

A Deacon

"diakonos", - "one who executes the commands of another, a servant, an attendant, minister" (Thayer).

The primary meaning is "servant".

In this noun form "diakonos" is found about 30 times

Only about 3 times actually translated "deacon" remainder as servant, minister, etc.

Anglicized word from translators distinguish between work of qualified men and general servants
General sense includes several classes of workers - (All deacons are servants, but not all servants are deacons.)

Romans 15:8; 2Corinthians 3:6; 1Timothy 4:6; Romans 13:4; 2Corinthians 11:15; John 2:5; Romans 16:1; John 12:26

First account of special or official use of word is in **Acts 6:1-6**

Not called "deacons" but work indicates such - Were to serve tables to relieve apostles of duty

Generally accepted by Bible scholars as first deacons in church

First account of use as special designation in **Philippians 1:1**

Deacons, and elders/overseers, are distinguished from the saints in general

Notice "likewise" - same way as - just as others already mentioned **1Timothy 3:8**

Qualifications of a Deacon **1Timothy 3:8-13**

Dignified **1Timothy 3:8**

"To be venerated for character, honorable" (BDB/Thayer)

Also rendered serious, honorable, grave, serious demeanor

Not double tongued **1Timothy 3:8**

Literally saying the same thing twice, repeating - Old Indian saying: "speak with forked tongue."

Not addicted to much wine **1Timothy 3:8**

Strong Drink was always condemned in Scripture.

Demonstrates this individual's mind set is not on the things of the world but on spiritual things.

Not greedy of dishonest gain **1Timothy 3:8**

Same as instruction to the elders - No lover or worshipper of money

Holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience **1Timothy 3:9**

Not having any doubts - like elders - **Titus 1:9**

First Be Tested **1Timothy 3:10**

Some been appointed in hopes they will "measure up" - must "measure up" before appointment

Men become deacons after shown his desire and ability to 'do the work' beforehand

Blameless **1Timothy 3:10**

Like elder, w/out reproach, unrebukeable, not open to censure, no charge can be substantiated

Husband of one wife **1Timothy 3:12**

Cannot be a bachelor, polygamist, or adulterer

Managing their children and their own households well **1Timothy 3:12**

Believing children not required, have children in subjection, men with younger children may serve

The Work of Deacons

Little in NT regarding work of deacons, Three sources from which may reach conclusions as to work

1Timothy 3:8-13 Qualifications indicate dealing with congregation, in confidence, financial dealings

Meaning of Greek "diakonos" (servant) which is translated deacon

Application of same word to seven men appointed to look after Grecian widows in **Acts 6:1-6**

From these conclude deacons serve in whatever capacity elders think will best serve congregation

Suggestions as to work deacons might do under oversight of elders

Look after physical needs of members in want, Visit whom elders ask them - physically sick and

need special attention or spiritually sick need attention elders believe deacons could supply

Look after ordering of class material and help elders in looking after teaching program.

Serve as the treasurer for the congregation, etc.

See after meeting place and make sure its prepared for assembly

Is lot, lawn, building presenting proper image to the community?

See proper maintenance is done on house and building

Do the doors work? Is the heat working? Is baptistery clean?

Deacon is work to be performed - **1Timothy 3:13**

Elders need to assign special and regular duties to deacons and deacons must perform these duties faithfully

Only appoint deacons if there is a work for deacons

Deacons work not "proving ground" future elders; not "Jr elders"

Members of congregation should show appreciation for work of deacons and cooperate with and assist them in doing work they do.

Opportunity to serve and develop a good influence in congregation

Assurance and strengthening of their faith in Christ

Appointed Servants

Deacons are men set apart to perform works of service to the local congregation

Whatever work needs to be done, they can be assigned to it

The qualities that make a man a Deacon also make him a good Christian example.

Must be serious, honest, honorable - **1Timothy 2:2**

Not double tongued - **James 1:8; 3:9-10**

Must abstain from drunkenness - **Ephesians 5:18; 1Corinthians 6:9-10**

No lover of money - **1Timothy 6:9-10**

Must be stable in the faith - **Hebrews 13:9; Ephesians 4:14**

Must be blameless - **1Corinthians 1:8; Philippians 2:14-16**

Every man is to have his own wife - **1Corinthians 7:2**

Children subject parents; husband head of wife - **Ephesians 6:1-4; 5:22-23**

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