

SENT

Missional Leaders
Chan Kilgore, Lead Pastor

[Acts 6.1-7]

Verse 1 speaks of the “daily distribution.” In the Greek, the verse literally says, “the daily diakonia.” The word “diakonia” means “practical service” and it is the word from which we derive our word “deacon.” “Diakonia” was a Greek word that meant to “wait on tables” and to feed people.

WHAT ARE DEACONS?

Deacons are the servants of the church who are also qualified for their ministry of overseeing and caring for God’s people by qualifications that are nearly identical to the elders minus the teaching and preaching abilities (1 Timothy 3.8-13). Unlike elders, deacons can be either male or female (1 Timothy 3.8-13, especially 3.11), as with the example of the woman Phoebe (Romans 16.1-2). The deacon ministry may have officially begun in Acts 6.1-6.

Although Acts 6.1–7 does not explicitly mention deacons, we can extract the biblical principle that when the elders are overburdened to the degree that they are unable to simultaneously get time for prayer, Bible study, and care of needy people, they are free to appoint pastoral assistants to help alleviate some of their burden. These pastoral assistants are deacons.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

Qualifications and rewards are spoken of in Scripture (1 Timothy 3.8–13).

General Qualifications of Deacons

- *Worthy of respect* — without any character defect, holy.
- *Sincere* — heartfelt, earnest, honest, authentic.
- *Not indulging in much wine* — without addictions, self-controlled.
- *Not pursuing dishonest gain* — not greedy, financially content and upright.
- *Keeping hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience* — sound biblical theology held with deep conviction.
- *Tested* — proven worthy over time.

Additional Qualifications for Female Deacons

- *Worthy of respect* — honored by both men and women as exemplary Christians.
- *Not malicious talkers* — not prone to sins of the tongue such as gossip, slander, lying, etc.
- *Temperate* — not prone to emotionalism.

SENT

- *Trustworthy in everything* — faithful in all life roles (e.g., wife, mother, daughter, sister).

Additional Qualifications for Male Deacons

- *Husband of one wife* — a one-woman man, sexually pure.
- *Manages his children and household well* — godly husband and father who leads, manages, and provides for his family.

Rewards for Faithful Deacons

- *Excellent standing* — honored and respected by God’s people in the church.
- *Great assurance in their faith* — a deep confidence in the power of the Gospel and the security of their relationship with God.

DUTIES OF DEACONS

Unlike the duties of elders, the duties of deacons are not stated in Scripture because a deacon is simply a servant that serves however they are needed.

THE ULTIMATE SERVANT (1 Timothy 3.16)

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SENT | *A Missional Prayer* | Acts 6.8-7.60