

A Biblical Job Description of a Deacon

Introduction:

1. One of the offices of the local New Testament church is the office of deacon.
2. What does the word “deacon” mean? It literally means “one who runs on errands; an attendant; a waiter; a _____.”
3. But what is the _____ of a deacon? What is his role and responsibility in the church?

First, deacons should _____ among the people, using their spiritual _____.

- A. In 1 Timothy 3, twice it says that these men are to “_____” the office of deacon or servant - not _____ the office, _____ it (this indicates action).
- B. What is the Bible teaching? Being a deacon is not about sitting around in committee meetings, although at times this is necessary. The purpose and reason for deacons are _____ and _____. They should epitomize the word “ministry.”
- C. Acts 6 tells us why the office of deacon was instituted.
 1. Deacons were to provide responsible _____ for the physical welfare of _____ believers.
 2. Deacons were to relieve the pastors so they could give priority time and attention to _____ and the study of the _____.
- D. In many churches, deacons are more likely corporate executives rather than ministering servants, but we see that deacons should use their energy to minister to needy people in the local church.
- E. What happens when deacons do this? Acts 6:7 tells us the Word of God _____.

Second, deacons should be a _____ system for the pastors.

- A. We see in Acts 6 that the deacon's job was to be a support system for the pastors, protecting them and their time by performing necessary acts of service that had to be done.
- B. This is why qualifications are so stringent. The deacons would be working with the people, doing shepherding and pastoral care. They would serve God _____ among the people and be an extension of the pastors' ministries, therefore they must be above reproach and be setting a godly example.

Third, a deacon should squelch gossip and slander and help to create _____ in the church.

- A. In Acts 6:1, some of the people in the church were murmuring and complaining. It was the first "_____ problem" the early church had faced.
- B. Deacons were implemented to help solve the problem, stop the murmuring and gossip, and help create _____ in the church.
- C. It is very clear from God's Word that deacons are to help _____ problems, not _____ problems.
- D. Notice, in 1 Timothy 3:8, deacons are not to be "double-tongued," and in verse 11, their wives are not to be slanderers.
- E. Many church members view deacons as men you run to when you have a gripe or complaint about something or someone in the church. This idea is often encouraged by men in leadership positions, but it is totally unbiblical.

Fourth, a deacon should help lead the church in the direction the _____ have set.

- A. Many have assumed that deacons make decisions about the direction of the church, when, in fact, they help lead people in the direction the pastors are going under direction of the Holy Spirit.

- B. God has given pastors as overseers for the local church. According to Acts 20:28-31, a pastor's job is to:
1. _____ the church.
 2. _____ the church.
 3. _____ the church.
 4. It is also the pastors who will stand accountable for the direction they lead the church. Hebrews 13:7, 17
- C. Notice in Acts 6:3, "...*whom we [the pastors] may appoint over this business.*" The pastors give the direction and the deacons help to make it a reality by serving and ministering. The pastors may very well seek the wisdom and counsel of their deacons, but ultimately, it is the pastors who must lead the church in the direction they feel God leading. Why? Because it is they (the pastors) who must give an _____.
- D. The two offices of pastor and deacon are meant to _____ one another, not work contrary to one another.
1. One is the office of pastoral _____.
 2. One is the office of practical _____ to the needy.