

Directing Deacons

Lecture Outline *Part 1 of 3*

Introduction

I. Greek Terms for “Deacon”

- A. You would normally begin a study of deacons by looking up “deacon” in a c_____.
- B. If you did, you would find only five instances of the word “deacons,” and these in only two New Testament texts: Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8–13.
- C. There are three forms of one Greek root word, *diakonos*.
 - 1. *Diakonos* (Διάκονος)
 - 2. *Diakoneo* (διακονέω, verb)
 - 3. *Diakonia* (διακονία)
- D. These three terms occur _____ times, and yet the English word “deacons” is found only 5 times, in two passages.

II. Deacons in New Testament Passages

- A. Two major passages which set forth the qualifications for elders: 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- B. Acts 14:23
- C. The D_____

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Introduction

III. The Problem

- A. The B_____ (Acts 2:42-47).
- B. Things quickly get busy for the apostles.
- C. One can easily see that the apostles would not have been physically present when the widows were being fed in Acts 6.
 - 1. One can imagine that the actual feeding program was run by the native H_____, who were residents of Jerusalem.
 - 2. The H_____ widows may not have been such long-time residents, or were merely sojourners. It seemed as though they got the short-end of the distribution of food.
 - 3. As a result, the H_____ Jews and the native H_____ began to be at odds – not so much the widows themselves, but the two ethnic groups as a whole.
 - 4. There were accusations of favoritism and a growing animosity. Soon, it was no long an issue of inequality, but a problem of d_____.
- D. It is not a surprise that the apostles were not there to oversee the distribution.

IV. The Solution

- A. The apostles determined they could solve this problem by delegation, not direct involvement.
- B. Establishing the Seven D_____

V. Observations

- A. The apostles rightly perceive the significance and urgency of the problem.
- B. The apostles see this as part of their responsibility.
- C. Our problem is that we are looking for a text that describes the relationship of the elders to the deacons, and yet neither elders nor deacons are named herein this text.
- D. How then does this apply to elders and to deacons?

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VI. A _____ Acts 6 to Elders and Deacons

- A. When you can't apply something in general, you might be able to apply something in principle.
- B. That is exactly what we shall do with Acts 6:1-6. We will derive the principles involved, and then apply them to the relationship of elders and deacons.
- C. Leadership principles from Acts 6
 - 1. The apostles rightly perceived the magnitude of the problem and its implications: disunity.
 - 2. They realized how important it was to deal with this problem promptly and decisively – unity was at stake.
 - 3. But they were not sidetracked by the urgent because the apostles knew their priorities as apostles: p_____ and p_____ (“ministry”) of the Word.
 - 4. They understood that leadership doesn't always mean doing it yourself, but getting it done. Good leadership enlists the i_____ of others who are qualified for the job.
 - 5. And so the apostles led by delegation, rather than by direct involvement (even though this was probably expected of them).

VII. Delegation

- A. Before we can delegate, we need to know what our p_____ are.
- B. The priority of the gospel
- C. Delegate on the basis of priority, not preference.
- D. When you delegate, clearly define the job. Set forth the q_____ for the leaders, and give the authority necessary.
- E. Don't m_____ the deacons.
- F. Delegation is difficult for those who feel the need to be in control. Delegation is the o_____ of guarding your turf.
- G. Delegation is one of the early m_____ of passing the torch.