

Lesson 3 — Nature of the Deacon's Work

An deacon's work is best understood by defining the term which describes his office.

Deacon

- **diakonos** — one who executes the commands of another, esp. a master.
- **diakoneo** — to be a servant, attendant, minister, to relieve the needs of others.

How does the definition help to describe the work they do?

MAIN TEXT FOR DEACONS: 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” (Phil. 1:1).

Many served in the capacity of a “diakonos”

1. Christ (Rom. 15:8).
2. Apostles (2 Cor. 6:4).
3. Evangelists (2 Tim. 4:6).
4. Civil authorities (Rom. 13:4).
5. Servant of the king (Matt. 22:13).
6. Domestic Servants (Luke 10:40; John 2:5,9)
7. Women servants in the church (Romans 16:1).
8. Angels (Heb. 1:14).

In all of these we see the two basic meanings of “diakonos”. These all execute the commands of a superior, and they all attend to and relieve the needs of others.

“Deacon” in its official sense:

1. Seen together with bishops (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13)
2. Were the men of Acts 6:1-7 “deacons”?
 - They never were called that term, but they executed the commands of the apostles and ministered to the widows.
 - But today, we do not have apostles, and the question is: whose orders will deacons execute, and under whose oversight will they work?
 - We simply do not see “deacons” in its official sense working without oversight in the NT.

Deacons — Servants to the Bishops

1. Moses had Joshua, Hur, and other assistants, while Paul had Timothy, Titus, Silas, and Luke.
2. Elders have an immense workload in watching over the congregation, they need help!

The Elders' Work is Spiritual, Deacon's Assist Them in Their Work

1. Elders are visiting and praying with the sick, teaching, preaching, helping lost souls come back, overseeing the finances, caring for poor.
2. Who ministers to them in this work? The deacons!
3. Anyone can mow the lawn and check the thermostat, but Paul gave strict qualifications because the nature of the deacons work is **primarily** spiritual, not physical.