

# ***The Body of Christ: Everyone Has a Part***

## **The Role of a Deacon**

Review:

**Putting Flesh on the Bones:** The Relationships of the Local Church

**Members** (Spiritual Growth & Discipling relationships)

**Deacons:** (1) Sharpen Biblical Focus (2) Communicate

**Elders** (1) Sharpen Biblical Focus (2) Communicate

### **The Blueprint: Where Deacons Began**<sup>1</sup>

**Acts 6:1–7 – Seven Chosen to Serve**

#### 1. “Word Ministry” Prioritized

“John Stott insightfully proposes that Acts 6 showcases a last-gasp satanic ploy...: The devil’s next attack was the cleverest of the three. Having failed to overcome the church by either persecution or corruption, he now tried distraction. If he could preoccupy the apostles with social administration, which though essential was not their calling, they would neglect their God-given responsibilities to pray and to preach, and so leave the church without any defense against false doctrine.”<sup>2</sup>

#### 2. Whole Congregation Involved

#### 3. Character Mandated

---

<sup>1</sup> I am following the outline found in Matt Smethurst’s book “***Deacons***,” cpt. 2 – “*The Blueprint: Where Deacons Began*.” With small modifications.

<sup>2</sup> John Stott, *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church, and the World* (1990; repr., Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1994), 120. **Cited from:** Smethurst, Matt. *Deacons* (9Marks Building Healthy Churches) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.

## 4. Labor Divided

## 5. Deacons are Shock Absorbers

## 6. Deacons are Problem Solvers Quote <sup>3</sup>

## 7. Quiet Work, Profound Effect

“The apostles under the inspiration of God’s Spirit appear to have created an entirely new office in the church for the specific purpose of serving tables. And the loftiness of the office is seen in (a) the character of the individuals required to fill it (“full of the Spirit and of wisdom,” v. 3), (b) the fact that this facilitates the ministry of Word and prayer, and (c) the unifying and strengthening effect it has on the whole church. The deaconate is important!” <sup>4</sup>

(Next Week: Deacon’s Qualifications)

---

<sup>3</sup> Smethurst, Matt. Deacons (9Marks Building Healthy Churches) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> Thabiti Anyabwile, Finding Faithful Elders and Deacons (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 20–21. **Cited from:** Smethurst, Matt. Deacons (9Marks Building Healthy Churches) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.