

Questions?

Immanuel Adult Sunday School
31.05.26

Deacons (1): the work of the Deacon

Conclusion

Resources

Cornelis Van Damm, *The deacon: biblical foundations for today's ministry of mercy*

All Saints Exeter sermons (Paul Sutton):

- i. Acts 6:1-7 -
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1j8sKsMu4RiZibpADfUNXg>
- ii. 1 Timothy 5:3-16 – The deacon's task -
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5tq5JkMXF4H1St9OLPRmmv>
- iii. 1 Timothy 3:8-15 – The deacon's character -
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0zY6uatOdxAVqgGodUziZn>
- iv. Romans 16:1-16 - Female deacons -
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7E6CyU0v23B3eqc7BTgnYy>

Discuss while waiting to begin

Imagine a situation in which a church member does not have enough (e.g. money, food, etc).

How should the church respond? Think about...

- Who responds? In what way?
- Can you think of any bible texts or principles that help?
- Might the church ever say "no"?

1. Does the Lord REALLY care about the body & material things?

- The soul matters more
e.g. Matthew 10:28, Mark 2:1-12
- But... remember...
Matthew 6:11, James 2:14-17, Mark 10: 29-30, Romans 12:6-8
- Philippians 1:1,
"... To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,
with the overseers and deacons."

2. The origin of the office of deacon – Acts 6:1-6

Imagine the church grows... to 5,000 or more!!!

- see Acts 1:15, 4:4, 5:14, 21:20
- growth → growing needs... of soul AND body

Problem 1 = dispute

Generosity (Acts 2:44-45, 4:34-35)

→ favouritism

→ complaint

Problem 2 = distraction

Neglecting “prayer and... the ministry of the word”

Solution = deacons

- Acts 4:34, “... not a needy person...”
- “deacon” = *diakonos* = “servant”
... of the widows and of tables (6:1, 2)
- (apostles “prayer and service of the word,” 6:4)
- authority to judge... ordained (6:6)... to a formal office
- result = growth and joy

What about our situation at Immanuel?

3. The task of the deacon

(a) Deciding who the church should support

Not only “widows” ...

- Acts 4:34 – “not a needy person”.
- concern for the “fatherless, the widow and the sojourner” (e.g. Deut. 10:17-18, see James 1:27).
- 2 Thess. 3:10 “if anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat”

Three responses to bodily needs – see 1 Timothy 5:3-16

(1) *No* practical support from the church

(because of family, e.g. v16... & now also the state?)

(2) *Temporary* support from the church

(before starting a new family)

(3) *Permanent and lifelong* support from the church

Who decides? = the Deacons

Who does the work?

(b) Removing distractions from the ministry of the word

e.g. finance

e.g. a church’s building