

Deacon Acts 6:1-4

The Greek word for deacon is “Diakonos” simply meaning servant. W. E. Vine says, “primarily denotes a servant, whether as doing servile work, or as an attendant rendering free service, without particular reference to its character”. Deacon refers to Christian workers in general. Diakonos is translated minister (Romans 16:11; I Corinthians 3:5; and several other verses. In Colossians 4:12, it is translated servant. The reference is to Gospel preachers and Christian workers in general. Deacon also holds to one of the two offices in a Baptist church. The office of Deacon has high and holy standards to the office of qualified candidates. Most hold to this in our dispensation.

In Romans 16:1, is an illustration of how a woman can be deaconess in the sense of being a servant to the church and ministers of Christ. Only men can hold the office of Deacon. The wife is also held accountable for the ministry of the man.

The duties of a Deacon consist of helping the Pastor beyond what others in the church does. He is to take care of the temporal things allowing the Pastor to spend more time in spiritual matters. This does not negate his own personal study. He is to look after finances, property, and widows or social projects. Dr. David Cloud said, “Deacons are men who are selected to be in a special position of servitude to the pastor and to the church, continually watchful and helpful in any way necessary to free the pastor for his God-given duties.”

The authority of a deacon as found in the Scripture. Nowhere in the Word of God are deacons referred to as rulers in the church. They are never in authority over the pastor, but in a subjected role. Deacons and elders may assume control in the absence of a pastor or when a pastor has sinned and discipline needs to take place. Anytime a committee or board of deacons set themselves over the pastor in authority, rather than submission under his God-assigned position, the men are sinning and are in rebellion to the Word of God.

There are standards for a man and his wife to meet for the office of Deacon. There must be a new birth. (I Timothy 3:8-16). His life must match his profession of faith. His wife’s spirituality

should back up his life. He should match the qualifications given in Acts 6. The office of Deacon given to a man in one church does not qualify him to keep that office in another church. This friends is a local church office and not denominational. There is no clear timeframe for the length of a man in a church.

There are no lifetime appointments in the local church. If a pastor or deacon sins, they should be dealt with according to the Word of God with restoration as the main focus. The opportunities of service and the offices are determined by the outcome of our behavior. I am looking forward to see what God will do with you as we continue to move forward for His glory and honor until Jesus comes.

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