

## Let the Deacons Serve Well

The biblical concept of the deacon is well established in the New Testament. The word “deacon” only appears in two passages (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13). The word is translated from the Greek word “*diaknonos*” meaning servant. Even though the word “deacon” only appears five times in our bibles, *diakonos* appears some 30 times in describing the work of a servant.

The deacons that serve in our congregation are very special. They are men who possess both physical and spiritual characteristics outlined in God’s word. They are truthful, serious minded, practical, with a good reputation. They lead their families according to the Lord’s will and by their example. Deacons are special servants, who serve under the guidance of the eldership and “*obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*” (1 Timothy 3:13)

Traditionally, deacons are assigned oversight in an area of work in the local congregation of the church. These areas of work can range from spiritual education, care for church facilities, to benevolence. Deacons can delegate and assign other members to help them accomplish the tasks within their specified area of work and service.

However, just because a church is blessed to have these special servants, it in no way excuses the rest of us from our personal responsibility in the Lord’s work. Just as we can assure our elders serve with joy and not grief (Heb. 13:17), we must always be ready to lend a hand in order to help the deacons complete their work. We thank God for our elders and deacons and pray for them often as they serve us well.

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