

Deacon: A Servant of Servants

1. We Are All Called to Serve

Jesus served: (Matt 20:28) “The Son of Man [came] **to serve**, and to give His life a ransom..”

Paul served: (Rom 1:9) “God, **whom I serve** with my whole heart in preaching the gospel”

All Christians serve: (Gal 5:13) “Through love **serve** one another.”

Dedication: (2 Cor 6:4-10) “**Servants** of God, in much endurance..v5 in labors, in sleeplessness.. 6 in purity.. kindness.”

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Of Christ (John 12:26) If **anyone** serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant (**dikonos**) will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Of a church (Rom 16:1-2) I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, a servant (**dikonon**) of the church which is at Cenchrea.

Of the Apostles (Col 4:7) **Tychicus**, our beloved brother & faithful servant (**dikonos**).. in the Lord, will bring you information.

We are ALL servants— Serve On !

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2. Deacons give assistance by humble means. Helpers.

Deacon— Greek Diakonos (dia-thru; konos-dust) One dusty from running. “*One who executes the commands of another.*”

(John 2:5) His mother said to the *servants* (diakonois), “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

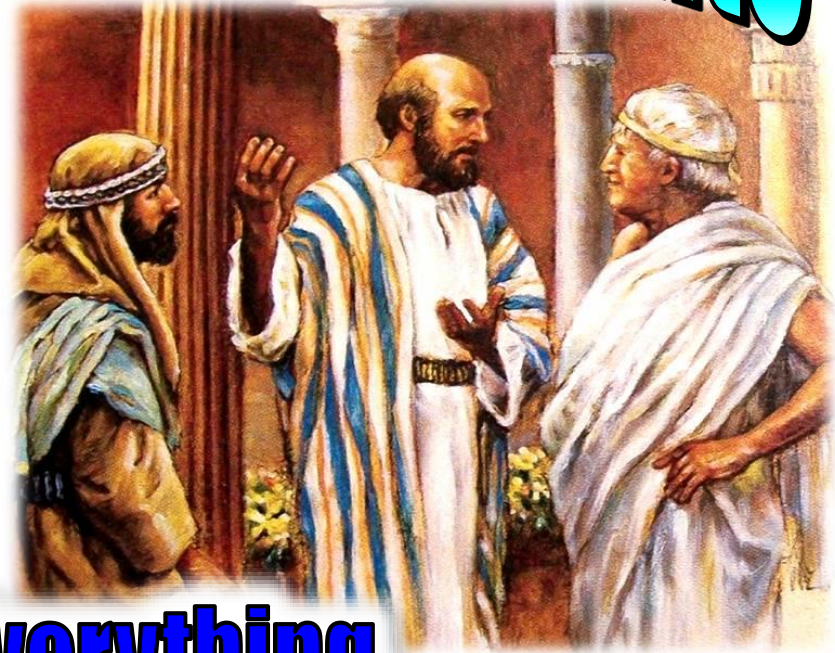
(Mark 9:35) If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and *servant* (diakonos) of all.

Used 29 times in NT. Only 5 times, in an official sense. (Phil 1:1; 1Tim 3:8, 10, 12, 13)

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3. A Deacon's Work

is to be a servant of the church under the direction of the elders.



A. Elders Oversee Everything

Acts 20:28 Overseers be on *guard* for the flock.

1 Pet 5:2 Shepherds (*Feed*, poimein) the flock.

1 Tim 3:5 Elders *Take care* of the church of God.

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3. Deacon's Work .. cont

B. Deacons fulfill assigned tasks



Acts 6:3 They are put **in charge** of something.
They are not kings / dukes, but faithful servants.

A deacon may be a treasurer. But **Elders oversee** the treasury, yet not for personal gain. (1 Pet 5:2)

Acts 11:30 Paul & Barnabas delivered contribution for poor saints **to the elders**, not to deacons.

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4. Servants are Important

Note the high position assigned them.

A. They're **Tested** Men

1 Tim 3:10 Also first be **Tested**

2 Cor 8:22 Often **Tested**

B. **Qualified** Men

1 Tim 3:8-12 Must be **Dig-
nified, honest, not addict..**

C. **Approved** Men

Acts 6:5 They **chose** Stephen
1 Cor 16:3 You approve

D. **Respected** Men

1 Tim 3:13 Served well..
obtain High Standing..



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5. Servants have

a **Special Work** to Do.

A Deacon is there to **Serve** (1Tim 3:13)

It's "Work time" not "Glory time."

B. Servants have **Special Task(s)**.

(Acts 6:3) May incl: buy food, transport, serve it.



C. Deacons **Aren't** junior elders. (Rom 12:4)

It's **not a stepping-stone** to being an elder.

Good deacon **may /may** not make a good elder.

There's different **skill sets** for each. (Rom 12:7-8)

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6. Servants help create

Great Attitudes in a congregation.

Trust

Do you trust the **man**
and his **wife**? (1 Cor 4:2)

Are you **confident** in them? (Yes / No)

Are you **afraid** of them? (Yes / No)



Positive

Deacons **encourage** members, elders
& one another. (1 Thes 5:11)

They are **sweet** not sour. (Prov 17:22)

Compare **Epaphroditus** (Phil 2:25-27)

Things to Look For:



Dishonest



Grouchy



Negative



**Known for
poor decisions**



Lazy



Honest, Diligent

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7. Servants Symbolize the Heart of Christianity,  "Servant-hood."

Willing to Serve

Matt 20:26-28 Christ came NOT be served, ***BUT to serve.***
That's the *Heart of Christ*

Humility

Matt 20:20-24 "Sit on R & L hand"
SERVICE, ***Not Power-Seeking.***

Humility displays an ***absence of self-importance.***
God can't use title-seekers ***but Self-less servants.***
Must not need ***coddling or kid-glove treatment.***

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8. Servants: Bloom

Where You Are Planted.



**Right
Focus**

Brethren get hung up on the honor.
Heb 12:1 Fixing our eyes on Jesus.
Heb 11:10 Looking for that City...

What if you're not chosen? (cf Acts 1:23-26)

Would you quit? Get discouraged? Go elsewhere?
One guy quit & kept changing churches. One didn't
Keep serving. Keep working. Show hospitality.
Give generously. Evangelize **JUST like BEFORE !**