



AND THEN THERE WERE DEACONS... – ACTS 6:1-7

GETTING STARTED

The church often seems too formal. “It’s too rigid, it’s too structured to really be a good thing.” This is often how we can view the church especially when we begin to think about structure of how a church runs. The subject either brings up arguments or glazed-over eyes. We either care too much or not enough about it. Yet, when we come to how deacons are introduced into the church, we realize that the role of a deacon is a blessing to the church! Deacons are a blessing to everyone in the church because they allow us all to use our spiritual gifts as they are intended. Not everyone is gifted to teach or preach or administer or serve. God blesses the church with a variety of gifts and the office of a deacon allows all of us to exercise our gifts without having to sacrifice one good thing for another. Deacons are a blessing!

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 6:1-7

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the



Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. What is the role of a Deacon? How is it different from an Elder? Who is qualified to be a Deacon? (see also 1 Tim 3:8-13)
2. In verse 2 are we to understand that serving tables is a lesser spiritual role? How do the varied gifts of the Spirit help us understand this? (see 1 Cor 12:4-7)

APPLY THE TEXT

3. What role do deacons play in our church? (Did you know we have deacons? Look here: <https://central365.org/article/deacons-at-central/>) How can you encourage the deacons we have and encourage others to pursue this office?
4. How has God gifted you specifically? How can you use your gifts to bless the church and reach out with the gospel of Jesus?

SHARE & PRAY

1. As we study the book of Acts, think carefully about 1 or 2 people that you would like to actively share the gospel with. Share them with your life group and hold one another accountable in prayer and support.
2. In light of Acts 6:1-7 let us pray that God would provide our church richly with more deacons and continue to use them to promote unity in our church and blessing to all those around us.

