

deacons *ministers, servants* DIAKONOS

The term "deacon" is a transliteration of **DIAKONOS**.

general, nontechnical uses of **DIAKONOS**:

John 2:5 & 7

Romans 13:4, 15:8, 16:1

2 Corinthians 3:6

1 Timothy 4:6

Hebrews 1:14

1 Peter 1:12

specific, technical uses of **DIAKONOS**

Philippians 1:1

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Acts 6:1-6 7 are appointed for ministration (**DIAKONIA**)
to serve (**DIAKONEŌ**) tables
so that the apostles might focus
on ministry (**DIAKONIA**) of the Word.

The work of a deacon is just as much a "noble" task as that of an elder.

1 Timothy 3:1 & 13 KALOU

The task of a deacon is not necessarily a "stepping stone" to serving as an elder.

1 Timothy 3:12 "husband of one wife"

MIAS GUNAIKOS ANDRES

of one woman/wife man/husband

see also **1 Timothy 3:2 & 5:9**

Deacons continue the serving ministry of Jesus (**Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:7**). They represent the distinctive aspect of the Jesus' ministry that was his preferred way of characterizing himself and his work -- **serving**.

A clear indication of a special class of functionaries in the church is the presence of a list of qualifications by which they are distinguished from others. Such a list occurs in **1 Timothy 3:8-13**.

1. **Serious...**sober-minded, men of sound mind with mature judgment; prudent, dignified, grave, and sincere.
2. **Not double-tongued...**not two-faced, not spreaders of gossip, those who say what they mean and mean what they say.
3. **Not indulging in much wine...**more than not drunken but also not impaired in any way by drink (or other habits).
4. **Not greed for money...**not covetous, not lovers of money, but instead generous.
5. **Holding fast the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience....** sound and strong in the faith with a good conscience.
6. **Tested...**proved in experience and conduct, not new Christians and not untried in responsibilities.
7. **Blameless...**of good report.
8. **Husband of one wife...** purity and stability in regard to marriage.
9. **Managing children and households well...**good leaders and good managers as proved in family and household affairs.

Everett Ferguson
in *The Church of Christ*

And on the day called Sunday there is a gathering together in the same place of all who live in a city or a rural district. The memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits. Then when the reader ceases, the one presiding in a sermon admonishes and urges the imitation of these good things. Next we all rise together and send up prayers. And, as I said before,

The qualifications indicate men who were among the people, involved in their lives and knowing their needs and problems. Hence they had to be people of seriousness of purpose who were not tale-bearers. As administering the benevolent funds and other fiscal affairs of the church, they must be above reproach in their handling of money and goods. They must be good examples in their own family life and in their conduct, since for many they would represent the church. They must be proved in their own faith, for what they said would carry great weight with those among whom they worked.

Everett Ferguson

when we cease from our prayer, bread is presented and wine and water. The one presiding in the same manner sends up prayers and

thanksgivings according to his ability, and the people sing out their assent saying the "Amen." A distribution and participation of the elements for which thanks have been given is made to each person, and to those who are not present it is sent by the deacons. Those who have means and are willing, each according to his own choice, gives what he wills, and what is collected is deposited with the one presiding. He provides for the orphans and widows, those who are in want on account of sickness or some other causes, those who are in bonds and strangers who are sojourning, and in a word he becomes a protector of all who are in need.

A DEACON'S WORK

Tasks of deacons recorded in early Christian writings include:

- Assisting with baptisms.
- Acting as ushers.
- Distributing the Lord's Supper at the Sunday assembly.
- Tending to Christian prisoners.
- Administering benevolence to widows and orphans.
- Burying the dead. *One deacon in Rome had charge of a cemetery.*

Justin (d. 165 AD), *Apology 1.67*

DIAKONOS WAS ORIGINALLY USED IN THE CONTEXT OF TABLE SERVICE, BUT CAME TO SIGNIFY ANY SERVICE

MATCHING

_____ Rom. 13:4

_____ Rom. 15:8

_____ Rom. 16:1

_____ II Cor. 3:6

_____ Eph. 6:21

_____ Col. 1:7

_____ I Tim. 4:6

_____ II Tim. 1:16-18

_____ II Tim. 4:11

_____ Heb. 1:14

_____ I Pet. 1:12

_____ I Pet. 4:11

A. Mark is helpful for Paul's **DIAKONIAN**

B. Onesiphorus **DIEKONESEN** to Paul in Ephesus

C. Epaphras is a faithful **DIAKONOS** of Christ

D. OT prophets did not **DIEKONOUN** to themselves

E. if anyone **DIAKONEI** does so by God's strength

F. Phoebe is a **DIAKONON** of the church in Cenchrea

G. Tychicus is a faithful **DIAKONOS** in the Lord

H. angels are ministering spirits sent to **DIAKONIAN**

I. an earthly ruler is God's **DIAKONOS** to do good

J. Timothy is to be a good **DIAKONOS** of Christ Jesus

K. **DIAKONOUS** of a new testament or new covenant

L. Christ has become a **DIAKONON** of the circumcised