



## The LORD is My Shepherd, Part 2

### He Cares for His Flock:

### The Role of Faithful Deacons

#### *Faithful and Trustworthy Servants*

*"If you are a genuine Christian, you are a deacon. You are a "servant" of Christ Jesus who "ministers" through your life to others, in Jesus' name and for his sake.*

*The Office of Deacon, rightly understood and deployed, is an irreplaceable gift of Christ to his church. They are model servants who excel in being attentive and responsive to tangible needs in the life and ministry of the church. They assist the elders through service, caring for needs, preserving unity, mobilizing ministry, and more."*

**Matt Smethurst**

*"It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need. These assistants to the deacons are not officers of the church (BCO 7-2) and, as such, are not subjects for ordination (BCO 17)."*

**PCA BCO 9-7**

## I. The Meaning of "DEACON"

- A. A "Servant" (ie. one who "ministers")
- B. A Distinct Office of Ministry, setting persons apart for official service/ministry to assist the elders beyond the ordinary ministry of the *Word and Prayer*, extending to "*tangible mercies*."

## II. The **ORIGIN** of the Office of Deacon (Acts 6:1-7) *Proto-Deacons*

- A. A Faithful Servant for a Ministry Need (vs.1b)
- B. Carefully Chosen (vs. 3)
  - 1. Men who are selected by *Men and Women*
  - 2. Who have proved to be full of the *Spirit and Wisdom*
  - 3. And are *Trustworthy with Responsibility* (*Take advantage of vulnerable widows*)

## III. The **PURPOSE** of the Ministry of Deacons

- A. *Various and Sundry* uses through time! (*Drift of Purpose/Focus*)
- B. A *Spiritual* Ministry but through *Physical* (tangible) Means
- C. John Calvin recaptures *Mercy Ministry* (Keller)

## IV. The **QUALIFICATIONS** for the Office of Deacon (I Timothy 3:8-12)

*"In the same way....." (like the elders vs. 8)*

- A. Faithful Men
- B. Worthy of Respect
- C. Sincere
- D. Not Overindulging of Wine
- E. Not Pursuers of Dishonest Gain
- F. Keep hold of the Deep Truths of the Faith with a Clear Conscience
- G. Test to see if there is any testimony against them
- H. Faithful to his Wife
- I. Manages his children and household well

(vs. 11) Now, about those women/wives.....

**1Peter 4:10-11**

**Matthew 20:28**

**1 Timothy 3:8-12**

8 In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

11 In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

12 A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.

**Acts 6:1-7a**

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly

**Psalms 100:2**

Serve the Lord with gladness!

**1 Peter 4:10-11**

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."