

# *Disaster Response (DR) for the Local Church*

## **Mike Cloy**

**Task:** To provide Deacons insights on how they might apply the specific mercy minister of diaconal peacemaking

**Purpose:** To help Deacons develop a disaster response framework for the congregation they serve

**Method:** Three “Be’s”

**Be Brief**

**Be Brilliant**

**Be Gone**

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# ***Disaster Response (DR) for the Local Church***

## **DR Deaconology**

**Why** – *DR for the Local Church*

**How** – *Does the Deacon Fit into DR*

**Where** – *DR Fits in the life of the Church*

**When** – *Do Deacons Perform DR*

**What** – *Deacons do to prepare for DR*

**DR Framework** – *Points to Resurrection Life*



# WHY? - *Disaster Response for the Local Church*

“While the Deacons are called to use the means of creation to relieve suffering, they have a **more urgent duty to fulfill** before bringing temporal relief: **guarding against trusting the means of creation over trusting the power of God**. The resurrection comes to mind here. Fear of the world shows lack of faith in the power of the resurrection (death does not win). **Ministry of mercy must reflect resurrection glory, not worldly fear. We cannot act as if death wins.**”

*Deacon Carl Carlson -Amoskeag Presbyterian Church (OPC) in Manchester, New Hampshire, The Spiritual Nature of the Office of Deacon, Ordained Servant Online, August 2017.*



**“Death Does Not Win”**

# **How?** - *Does the Office of Deacon Fit into Disaster Response*





# Where? – Disaster Response Fits in the life of the Church



“So, how does the deacon approach his office? He recognizes that while his duties may be temporal in nature, they cannot be fulfilled properly without understanding that the very mission of the church undergirds all that he does.”  
Deacon Carlson



**Purity**

Titus 1:5-9

Elders  
Shepherd

1 Peter 5:1-3

**Worship**

Ephesians 4:16

Members  
Communion  
of the Saints

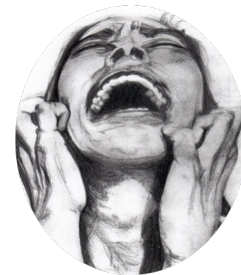
Philippians 2:2-4

**Unity**

Deacons  
Mercy

Galatians 6:9-10

Acts 6:1-7



**Peace**

# When? - Deacons Help Sustain the Peace of Worship Week to Week

## Worship

*The Lord Bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you **and give you peace***

Num 6:24-26

**Physical & Material Distress Disrupts the Peace of the Lord**

**Creation Groans - Romans 8:22**



**An event causing great and sudden damage**

**A natural or man made event that causes loss of life**

**Serious, unexpected situation requiring immediate action**

**Time of intense difficulty or danger**

## Worship

*Now may the **Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.** The Lord be with you all.*

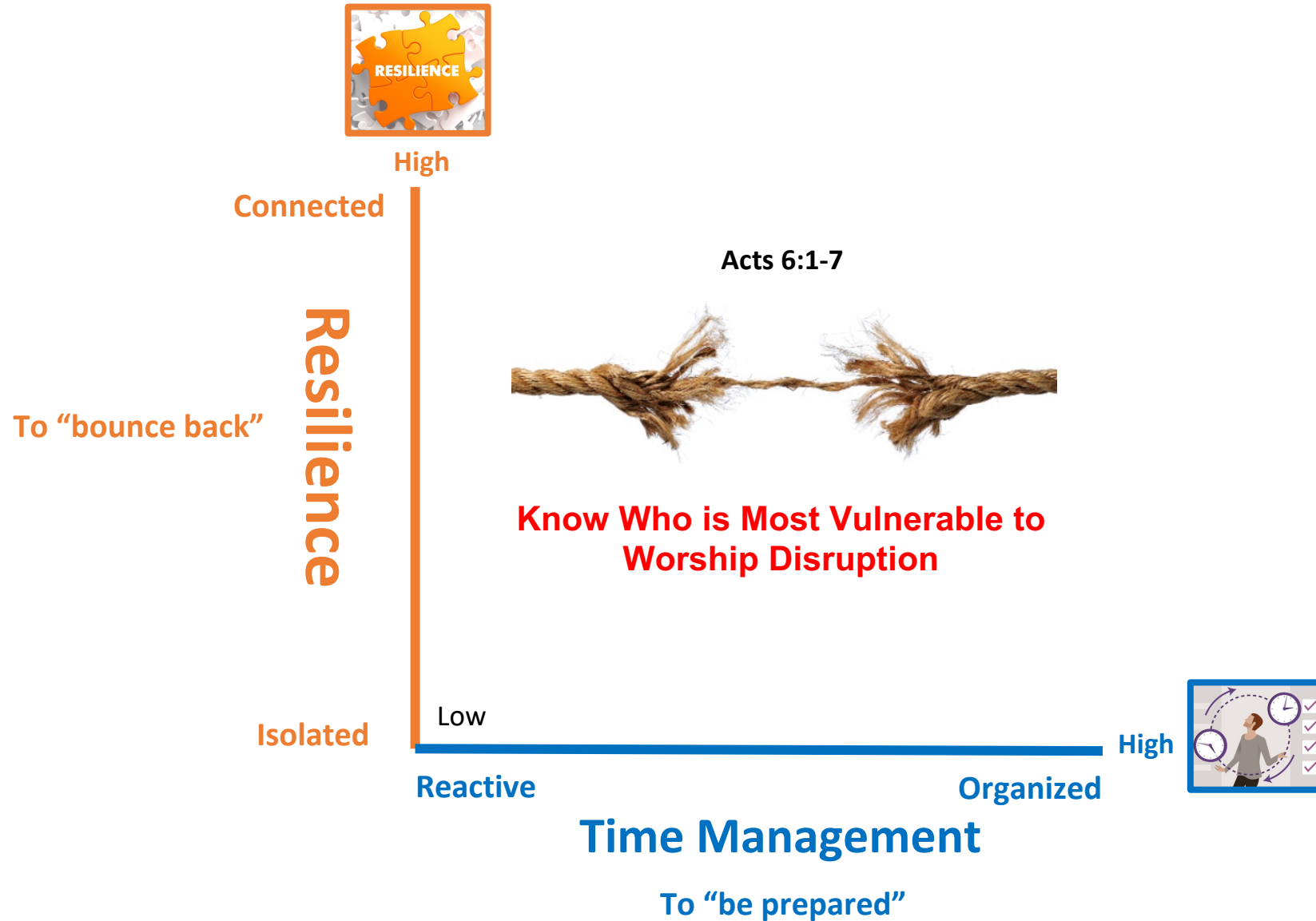
2 Thess 3:16

## Glory

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things will have passed away*

Rev: 21:4

# What? – Deacons Do to Prepare for Disaster Response



# What? – Deacons Do to Prepare for Disaster Response

## ***Know the Gifts and Graces of the Sheep to Prepare God's People for Deeds of Mercy***

WCF Chapter 26.1 - *All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by His Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His grace, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, **they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.***

### **Gifts – Outer Man**

- Mental Skills
  - Planning, preparing, executing
  - Resilience, adaptation
- Physical skills
  - Endurance, strength, will power
  - Trade, craft or talent
- Material Resources
  - Tools, equipment, supplies



### **Graces – Inner Man**

- Peacemaking
- Hospitality
- Live providentially
- Can separate the world from Christ kingdom
- Has experience suffering
- Perseverance
- Not easily offended

*Deacons know their sheep by getting to know their gifts and graces and help prepare them for potential interruption of the peace of worship*



# What? – Deacons Do to Prepare for Disaster Response

*Strengthen the Disaster Preparedness of the Sheep*



**Know the Most Vulnerable to Worship Disruption**



Emergency preparedness for churches: guides, tips, worksheets, checklists, and training.

**Know the Gifts and Graces of the Sheep**



# What? – Deacons Do to Prepare for Disaster Response

## *Deacons Protect the Communal Joy of the Congregation*

WCF Chapter 26.2 - It is the duty of professing saints to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God and in performing such other spiritual services as help them edify one another. **It is their duty also to come to the aid of one another in material things according to the various abilities and necessities.**

### Necessities

#### What Is Critical to Restoring Peace?

Shifting from

“Trusting the means of creation

to

Trusting the resurrection power of God.”

*Deacon Carl Carson*



### Abilities

#### Who Can Help to Restore Peace?

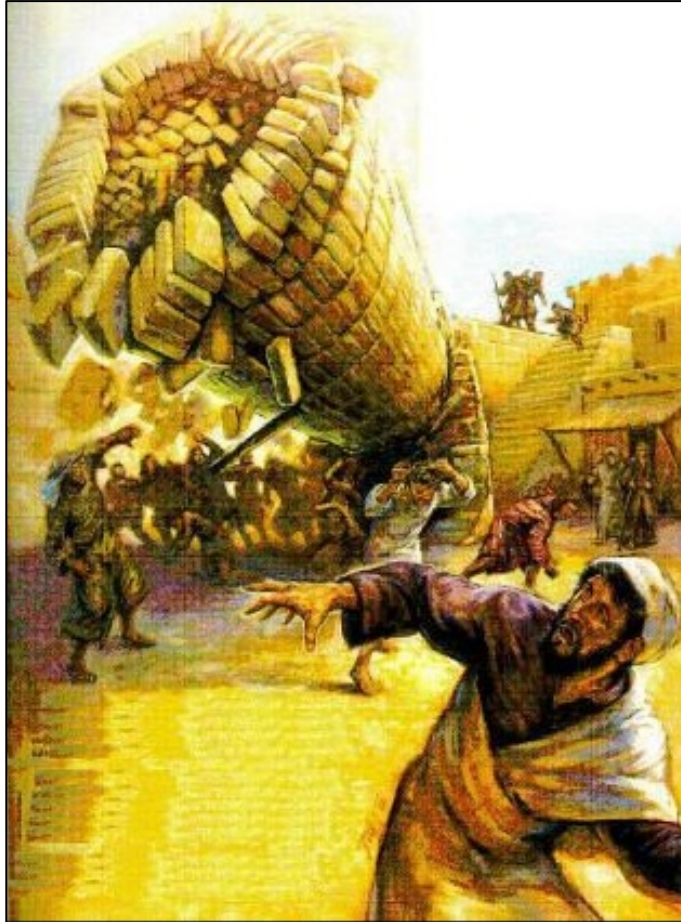
Gifts – Outer Man

Graces – Inner Man



# What? – Deacons Do to Prepare for Disaster Response

*Disaster Response is an Opportunity for Deacons to Remind Humanity of Our Need for Redemption*



Tower of Siloam Falls – Luke 13:4-5

## Repent or Perish

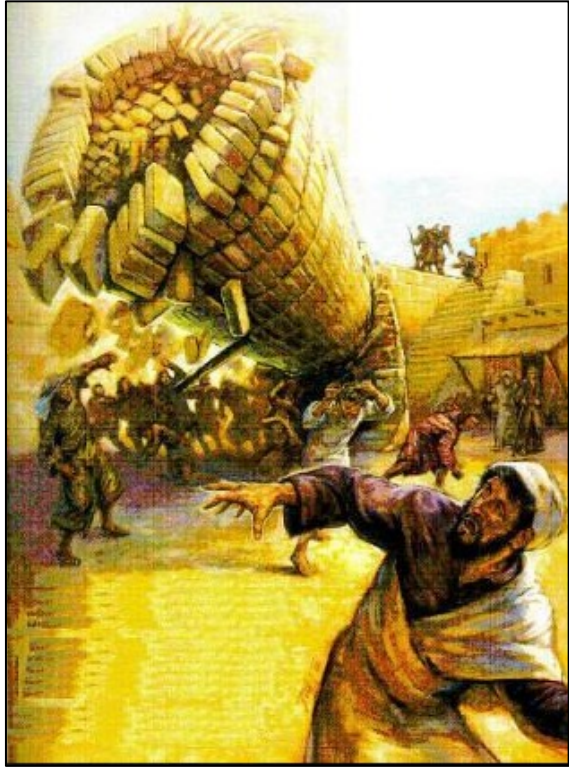
**13** There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

**4** Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Can't you see for yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you actually fail the test?

# DR Framework – Deacons Point to Resurrection Life “Death Does Not Win”

Imagine Two Members of Your Church Injured



**Russell**– in the ICU, brain injury  
 Tower fell on business, repairable, hole in roof  
 Married to Donna  
 Five children ages 2-12  
 Extended family in Rome two months away  
 Church treasurer

**Abigale** – in hospital, both legs broken  
 Widow – no children, no related family  
 Tower fell on house, repairable  
 House needs hole fixed in roof, debris removed  
 No extended family  
 Fixed income is social security

Assessment

Assessment



Resilience good, employees, neighbors



Resilience low, only Church family.



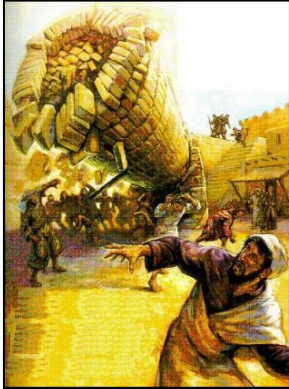
Preparedness medium, very little to no savings  
 No health insurance, self employed



Preparedness low. On SS & Medicare.



# DR Framework – Deacons Point to Resurrection Life “Death Does Not Win”



**2 Corinthians 13:5**  
**Exam Self**  
**(Spiritual)**



**Necessities**  
**What is Critical to Restoring Peace?**  
**(Material)**



**Abilities**  
**Who Can Help to Restore Peace?**  
**(Gifts and Graces)**

**Abigale**

**Russell**

# DR Framework – Deacons Point to Resurrection Life “Death Does Not Win”

*Deacons Operate within the Connectional Church – Diaconal Presbyterianism*

Local Church



Presbytery

Diaconal Committee



Denomination



# DR Framework – Deacons Point to Resurrection Life “Death Does Not Win”

Carolyn at Newbern, NC Covenant OPC



# Deacon Disaster Response Catechism

Q: **Why** disaster response for the Local Church?

A: It is a “ministry of mercy that reflects resurrection glory, not worldly fear.” - Deacon Carl Carson

Q: **How** does the Deacon fit into disaster response?

A: Deacons help the congregation keep their eyes on the peace of the Lord.

Q: **Where** does Disaster Response fit into the life of the Church?

A: Deacons are peacemakers helping the congregation to trust in the resurrection power of God.

Q: **When** do Deacons perform disaster response?

A: Weekly - Within the sustaining benedictions of peace from our Lord to his people each new week.

Q: **What** do Deacons do to prepare for disaster response?

A: They strengthen the disaster preparedness of the congregation.

A: They protect the communal joy of the congregation.

A: They remind humanity of our need for redemption.

Disaster Response Framework – Points to Resurrection Life

- \* Assessment of necessity and ability
- \* Application of gifts and graces
- \* Presbyterian Diaconalism

**“Death Does Not Win”**





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