

God has made adequate & abundant provision for the growth of the church -

THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACON

one of the threats to a church is a busy pastor - burying his spirituality in a game of business

Acts 6:1-7; I Tim. 3:8-13

INTRO: One of God's provision for the life and growth of the church is the DEACON. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The N.T. Places great importance... a vital and strategic ministry.

GOOD FOR ALL TO HEAR THIS MESSAGE: (1) So you'll know what to expect from him; (2) You'll know the kind of man to look for when choosing a deacon.

(3) Some of you younger men will someday be asked to serve -- need to know the truth...

I love deacons - whatever success I had as a pastor was due in a great measure to faithful deacons - they protected me, encouraged me, supported me -

I. IT IS A SERVICE MINISTRY *relationships of a trusted - mutual*
Service is the key word, the theme struck in the meaning of the word, and the practice of the first deacons. NOT A RULING BODY.

1. A service to the church

- (1) Cure neglect
- (2) Curb complaining

contribute to the harmony of the fellowship. *They are often key to the harmony & happiness of the church.*

2. A service to the Pastor -- frees him to exercise His God-given ministry... prayer and the ministry of the Word.

3. A service to himself

- (1) A good standing
- (2) Great confidence, boldness -- STEPHEN

(2)

II. IT IS A SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

1. The qualifications of the servant are SPIRITUAL.

Because "waiting on tables" is a work demanding lowliness, humility -- where self is in control, deacons get "bored" with service and become a "BOARD" to run church...

BECOME BORED....BECOME A BOARD....

In many churches the roles are reversed...
Deacons ruling and pastors waiting on tables.

2. The quality of the service is to be spiritual

Done in the energy and enabling of the Spirit.

III. IT IS A SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

Acts 6:7

1. Word of God increases
2. Number of disciples multiplies