

**Scripture:** Numbers 1:50-54; 1 Chron. 23:3-5; 25-32; Acts 6:1-6  
**Singing:** 394:1-3 – 179:1-4 – 223:2-3 – 351:1 – 368:1-5

Intro: There is much teaching packed in Philippians 1:1

A. It teaches that pastors are the *servants of Jesus Christ* (2 Cor. 4:5; Matt. 10:40)

B. It teaches that a church is made up of ‘saints’ (Romans 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2)

C. It teaches that a church has a plurality of leaders: *bishops and deacons*

<b>The Office of the Deacons I. The Name II. The Root III. The Tasks</b>
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**I. The Name Deacon**

A. The Greek original word for ‘deacon’ is *servant or minister* (Matt. 20:26)

1. It has a wide application: Matt. 20:28; Col. 1:12; Gal. 5:13; Rom 16:1

2. Yet in Phil. 1:1 it refers specifically to *an office bearer* along with elders  
a. combine with Acts 6:3, 5; 1 Tim. 3:8-12

**II. The Root of the deacons**

A. The root of the deacons *office* are in the OT Levites

1. The Levitical order are the predecessors of the deacons  
a. Nu 1:50, 53; 1 Chron. 23:28, 32 (15:15-24)

B. The deepest root of the deacon’s office is God Himself

1. Deut. 10:17-18; Ps. 68:5; 145:16-7

C. These ‘roots’ show that the deacons are no less than elders/pastor

**III. The Task of the deacons**

A. According to Acts 6:1-4: *to safeguard apostles from distraction (vs. 4)*

1. Small churches could function without deacons (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)

B. God’s task for deacons: *priestly and practical care of poor & needy*

1. Jesus taught that *‘the poor always will be with us’* (John 12:8)  
a. the deacons are ‘the ministers of mercy’ on Jesus’ behalf

2. Jesus teaches us through the deacons that our bodies are also important
  - a. His example of deaconry work: John 21:5, 9, 12
3. Jesus calls deacons to *lead* the care of poor, needy, vulnerable
  - a. they may make use of 'sisters' to carry out of these tasks (Rom. 16:1)
- C. God's task for deacons is the management of NT "sacrifices and offerings"
  1. NT believers bring their thanksgiving and burnt offerings: 2 Cor. 8-9
    - a. the deacons are the stewards of the offerings *offered to God*
  2. NT 'Levites' also are in charge of the 'worship places'
- D. God's task for deacons is to provide financial support for preachers and other laborers employed in the work of God: Gal. 6:6(-8) – 1 Tim. 5:18

**Finally:** Jesus' Concluding Encouragement: 1 Tim. 3:13

- A. The deacon's work does not go unnoticed by the King of the Church
  1. What do you purchase' (obtain) by your faithful labor for the King?
    - a. a good degree
    - b. great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus

"As deacons serve Christ, they also develop their spiritual lives, particularly their faith in Christ. Although deacons do not teach or govern the congregation, they can be spiritual giants who exercise bold faith. Those who are bold in faith venture out into new faith-inspired works for God. This bold faith will result in their doing greater exploits for God, in moving mountains, in generating creative new ideas for showing mercy and Christ's love to others, in gaining new vision, and in going beyond minimal duties. As deacons serve well, they gain boldness in their faith to do even more. Men of faith are men of actions and deeds." (Alexander Strauch)