

God's Serving Team: Pastors & Deacons

God's Word Teaches That There Are Two Offices in the Local Church

1. Spiritual Leaders (Pastors, Shepherds, Elders, Overseers)

- a. **who are appointed by God** (Eph 4:11; 1 Tim 1:12)
(Eph 4:11-12) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
(1 Tim 1:12) And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,
- b. **who are assigned the tasks of:**
 - **equipping** the saints (Eph 4:12)
 - **shepherding** the flock (1 Peter 5:1-4)
 - **feeding** the flock (John 21:15-17; 1 Tim 5:17-18)
 - **guarding** the flock from within & without (Acts 20:28-30; Heb 13:17),
 - **restricting** who teaches and what is taught (1 Tim 1:3-7)
 - **overseeing** the flock (1 Pet 5:1-4)
- c. **who are affirmed by other spiritual leaders** (2 Tim 4:14; Titus 1:5)
- d. **who are accountable to God** (Heb 13:17) – as believers, each of us has the responsibility to confront an erring brother. Pastors are additionally accountable to the Lord to teach His Word clearly (2 Tim 4:1-4) and accurately (2 Tim 2:15).

2. Servant Helpers (Deacons, Servants)

(Acts 6:1) Now in those days, when [the number of] the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

- a. **What led to the creation of the deacons?**

- b. **Who first responded to the problem?**

(Acts 6:2) Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

- c. **Who determined what was desirable?**

- d. **Who determined what the solution should be?**

(Acts 6:3) Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of [good] reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

- e. **Who determined what number there should be?**

- f. **How big was “the multitude” at the time?**

- g. **Who determined what the qualifications should be?**

h. What were these qualifications?

i. What was the specific function of the seven to be?

j. Who was to appoint these seven to be over the serving?

(Acts 6:4) but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

k. Who determined what the priorities should be?

l. What are those priorities?

(Acts 6:5) And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

m. What was the response of the multitude?

n. What part did they have in this?

o. Whom did they choose?

p. How did they choose them?

(Acts 6:6) whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

q. What did the multitude do with the seven?

r. What did the apostles do with the seven?

(Acts 6:7) Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

s. What was the result of servers serving so that leaders could lead?

t. How critical are deacons to the local church?