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Biblical Roles in Church

Deacon

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The role of a deacon in the church is a vital and often misunderstood aspect of Christian ministry. Deacons play a crucial role in serving the church community and supporting the pastoral leadership. In this Bible study, we will explore the origin of deacons, their qualifications, and their role in the church.

1. The Origin of Deacons:

- The term “deacon” comes from the Greek word “diakonos,” which means “servant” or “minister.” This word is used in the New Testament to describe those who serve in various capacities within the early Christian community.
- one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister
- The concept of deacons can be traced back to the early days of the Christian church, as described in the book of Acts.

Acts 6:1-6 (NIV):

“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. 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. 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’”

- This passage in Acts marks the appointment of the first deacons to address a specific need within the early church.

2. Qualifications of Deacons:

- The qualifications for deacons are outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and provide a clear understanding of the character and qualities expected of those in this role.

1 Timothy 3:8-13 (NIV):

“In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.”

- These qualifications emphasize the importance of moral integrity, a strong foundation in the faith, and the ability to manage personal and family life well.

3. The Role of Deacons:

- Deacons serve in various practical and supportive roles within the church, allowing the pastoral leadership to focus on preaching, teaching, and spiritual guidance.
- While their specific duties may vary among churches, common responsibilities include caring for the physical needs of the congregation, assisting with worship services, and helping to maintain the church's facilities.
- Deacons are also expected to be spiritual leaders, setting an example of faith and service for the congregation.

Deacons are an integral part of the church, serving as servants and ministers to the congregation and assisting in various practical ways. Their qualifications, as outlined in 1 Timothy 3, emphasize the importance of character, faith, and a well-managed personal life. The origin of deacons can be traced back to the early days of the Christian church, as described in Acts 6. Understanding the role of deacons helps us appreciate the diverse and essential ministries within the body of Christ, working together to fulfill the mission of the church.

Questions:

1. What is the definition of deacon?
2. What is the Greek word for deacon?
3. Where is the origin of the deacons found in the Bible?
4. Where can the qualifications of a deacon be found?
5. Can a deacon drink alcohol?
6. Should a deacon have integrity?
7. Who should the deacon receive their duties from?
8. What are some common responsibilities for the deacon?