**SERMON NOTES**

*High Calling, High Character: The Crucial Role of the Deacon Ministry in the Church*

Acts 6: 1 – 7

**The Lord Jesus gave to churches just two local offices: the office of elder and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 3: 1 – 13; Philippians 1:1).**

**These two offices of the church serve in different ways, authority, and roles but each with the same \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: the advancement of the gospel and the unity of the church.**

**It is no small thing to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by your local church congregation as worthy to serve in the offices that the Lord Himself has established for His local churches.**

**Deacons are model servants recognized by a congregation because of their character that they might assist the elder / pastors by spotting and meeting tangible needs, promoting church unity, and helping to facilitate the ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The early church had been called and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to be witnesses and given the same commission that we too have received: to take the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria even to the ends of the Earth (Acts 1:8).**

**In our text this morning, satan tries his oldest and favorite scheme: to bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – complaining, grumbling, amidst and amongst God’s people. We will see it is those who serve in the role of deacon who are given the awesome task of being peacemakers and conflict resolvers in the church.**

**Deacons are model \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The word used here in this passage for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ servant is the Greek word *διακονέω* where we get our word deacon.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chose to use this word *διακονέω* in Matthew 20:28 when He said that He came “not to be served but to serve” (literally: not to “be decaonned” but to “deacon”).**

**The example of Jesus as servant (deacon) is what \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believer is called to follow, but there is in the church to be a special office of those recognized by their character and tasked to specific service in the church to meet tangible needs and preserve unity - these are deacons, model servants in the church.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the most important and crucial thing that must be considered when recommending those to the office of deacon.**

**The apostle’s command is that the church evaluate those chosen based on their reputation, wisdom, and how the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ work is seen in their life.**

**As you pray through who you will recommend, understand that it is far more important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (character) a deacon is than what a deacon does.**

**The Bible is teaching us here in Acts 6 that it is much better to have men with seemingly lacking skills in management, labor, academics, finances but with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ character (love their Bible) than those who excel in those fields but without it.**

**One of the primary roles of those who serve in the office deacon is to promote and keep church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Nothing can undue a church and their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more than turning inside and being focused on conflict within.**

**The ministry of the office of deacon arises in Acts 6 because there is tension the threat of disunity in the church and it must be quickly put down for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the church and the spread of the gospel.**

**Those who would serve in the role of deacon must be shock absorbers and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Deacons are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the life of the church.**

*Blanks: deacon; goal; recognized; Word; gospel; disunity; servants; serving; Jesus; every; Character; Spirit’s; who; godly; unity; mission; good; peacemakers; difference makers;*

Congregational Scripture Reading – Philippians 2: 3 – 5

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.