

The Beginning of the Office of the Deacon

Acts 6:1-5

December 3, 2006

I. The Setting

It was an e_____ time. They were all continuing steadfastly in doctrine, sweet fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers. They were e_____ over seeing other sinners being saved and added to the church. (Act.6:1; 2:42,47)

It is in this Setting that we now see that in their midst arose ...

II. The Schism

What now took place was like an earthquake that opened up as a huge d_____ in their midst, and shook the unity of the church. (Act.6:1)

They were inexcusable for their m_____, and so are we! (Phi.2:14-16; Num.21:5)

It doesn't matter what is going on or even if you are being mistreated...

a) Recognize God is sovereign. H__ has allowed this problem for a reason, and let you in on it, or made you a part of it. (Eph.1:11; Rom.8:28)

b) Appeal to God for r_____. (Psa.46:1; Phi.4:6-7)

c) Appeal to the p_____ authorities. (Heb.13:17)

d) O____ Romans 12:17-21.

There was a r____ problem. Some of the Grecian widows were being neglected. (vs.1)

The real issue was that these apostles (elders) did not have the time to serve t_____. Their calling was to the spiritual ministry of the W____ and p_____. (Act.6:2,4)

Physical matters are important and m____ not be neglected. They are to be dealt with as a testimony and often, as with buildings, as a means to an end. But they must not become p_____ or a dividing p_____ among us.

III. The Solution

The service of the deacons involves the p_____ matters of the church. (Act.6:2-3)

The selecting of the deacons is to be done b_____ and p_____ by the church membership. (Act.6:3,5; Rev.1:6; Phi.2:1-5)

The Standards for a Deacon (Acts 6:3):

1) A deacon must be faithful t__ the people of God and so faithful in being w____ them.

2) He must be a m_____.

3) They must be men who are l_____ to Christ and to His appointed leaders.

4) They must have p_____ themselves by their behavior and decisions that they can be entrusted with the finances and distribution of such according to the w_____ of the church.

5) They must be f____ of the Holy Spirit.

6) They must be men shown to have God-given w_____ to think things through and make wise decisions.

7) These must be men that the pastoral leaders can put their hands upon as b_____ qualified.