

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Acts 6:1–7 & 1 Timothy 3:8–13:

The Living Framework of the Church (The Office of Deacon)

Preaching Date: August 9, 2026

Opening Prayer Ask God to give us gratitude for the beautiful organizational structure and offices He has gifted His church. Ask Him to bless our new deacons, Arnold and Derek, with wisdom, strength, and a deep love for the congregation.

Recap In Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3, we see Christ's profound love for His Bride demonstrated through the provision of church officers. While pastors are called to the primary ministry of the Word and prayer, deacons are called to a ministry of tangible service, acting as the hands and feet of Christ. Born out of a logistical crisis in Acts 6 that threatened church unity, the diaconate was established to meet the physical needs of the flock and safeguard the peace of the body.

Understanding the Text

1. Why is it significant that the New Testament provides clear *duties* for pastors in the epistles, but we must look to the historical narrative of Acts 6 to understand the actual duties of a deacon?
2. How did the early church's logistical failure in food distribution (Acts 6:1) pose a massive spiritual threat to the unity of the new believers?
3. According to 1 Timothy 3:8–13, a deacon must hold to the "mystery of the faith with a clear conscience." Why is a deep grasp of biblical doctrine necessary for a role that is primarily focused on physical and administrative needs?
4. In what ways do the qualifications for a deacon and his wife reflect the "ordinary" character expected of all mature Christians, and why is the management of his home (v. 12) the ultimate proving ground for this office?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. The sermon described a deacon as having their "head on a swivel" to anticipate and meet the practical needs of the congregation. How can you cultivate this same servant-hearted awareness?

2. Deacons are called to be the "shock absorbers" of the church, protecting unity and absorbing complaints. In what ways are you tempted to let minor offenses, bruised feelings, or logistical frustrations cause discord in your own heart toward the church?
3. We are called to support the destination set by the elders and the practical work of the deacons. How can you actively encourage and pray for Arnold and Derek as they step into this heavy burden of ministry this week?
4. Jesus Christ is the ultimate *diakonos* (servant), who emptied Himself to wash our feet and shed His blood for our salvation. How does reflecting on Christ's radical service to you empower you to lay down your own pride and serve the underserved in our community?

God Has More to Say

The Heart of a Servant

- Matthew 20:25–28
- Philippians 2:3–7

Caring for the Vulnerable

- James 1:27
- 1 John 3:17–18

Guarding Church Unity

- Ephesians 4:1–3
- Colossians 3:12–14

Supporting Leadership

- Hebrews 13:17
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13