

**Study Questions for the November 15, 2020 Sermon:**  
**“Deacons - How They Lead”**  
**Acts 6**

1. During the opening prayer, Pastor Paul said that (paraphrase): ‘Members of your church are defined by their relationship to You.’
  - a. Are we Christians defined by that relationship exclusively? Or is there some defining doctrine we must embrace, or virtue we must demonstrate, to be a Christian?
  - b. If there is a defining doctrine or virtue, what is it?
2. In Acts 6, when the Apostles addressed the problem of Greek Christians complaining that their widows were not being fairly cared for, the congregation chose seven men (v5), all who appear to be Greek. To you think this was wise, or should they have chosen a mix of Greeks and Jews?
3. Pastor Paul made the point that the problem that arose in Acts 6: ethnic-based inequality, was not merely an administrative issue. It was a spiritual issue in that Greeks and Jews were not demonstrating to the world that they were now the united body of Christ. Can you recall other verses that teach gender, race, skills, and economic status are all secondary to our identity as the body of Christ?
4. The Apostles apparently agreed that the neglect of the Greek widows was a serious issue that must be addressed. What was their rationale for delegating the solving of this problem to others?
5. In an ideal congregation, members are maturing to the point where they are qualified to become Deacons or Elders. Then when new leaders are needed, the congregation may choose them (as we see in Acts 6) out of the congregation. What programs or policies might a church have in place to encourage the ongoing maturity of its members?
6. Verse 7 states that: *a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*" This seems to be the result of what happened in verses 1 – 6. Why would the creation of the office of Deacon result in priests converting to Christianity?