

Leading The Church Forward

Leaders Guide for Week Six

Deacons - What Do Deacons Do?

Acts 6:1-7

Note: Please read the Scripture passages and watch the video on your own first and try to answer the questions. This will help you fine-tune things and draw good answers out of the group when you view it again with them.

Open with Prayer

Note: The video is shorter this week to allow time for questions as we get ready for the church business meeting next week. Please remind your group of the meeting after church on Oct 2nd.

Video

Questions

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. 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?

4. 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?

5. 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?

Q&A -

Note: The proposed By-law changes were sent out last week so there may be specific questions. Please ask if there are any. If you are unsure of any answers, please write down the questions and get them to Pastor Paul so you can provide an answer next week.