

Introduction: Acts 6:1ff is the account of the historical “origin and institution” of the office of deacon...

I. The Situation in the Church...

- A. *There was persecution... Acts 5:27ff*

- B. *The disciples were encouraged and joyful... Acts 5:42*
- C. *The church was growing... Acts 6:1 cf 2:41; 4:4; 5:14*

Lesson: Satan is always on the attack... nevertheless...

II. The Particular Issue Raised...

- A. *The Hellenists complained...*
 - 1. They were Jews influenced by Greek culture...
 - 2. Their widows were being neglected...
 - a. The daily distribution (diakonea...)
 - b. The neglect was not intentional or because of racial strife...

Observations:

- 1. The proclamation of the Gospel and teaching is central...
- 2. There are no 2nd rate Christians in the church...
- 3. It would be wrong to neglect the Word of God...
- 4. It would be incorrect to think the Apostles held a superior attitude... *Mark 10:43-45*

Lessons:

- 1. Jesus calls all of us to “diakonia...”
- 2. Leaders in the church are to be examples...
- 3. It is an issue of calling...

III. The Solution Proposed and Accepted...

- A. *Pick out seven men...*
 - 1. Of good report...
 - 2. Full of the Spirit and wisdom...
- B. *The church members choose... Acts 6:3b-5*

Consider: These were good men... Stephen, Philip...

Observation: A problem created an opportunity and God richly blessed, vs. 7

IV. Our Premise Defended...

- A. *Not everyone agrees...*
- B. *They fail to consider:*
 - 1. These men are personally mentioned...
 - 2. They were elected and qualified...
 - 3. They were elected to a specific work...
 - 4. They were ordained to it... *I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6; cf. Numbers 27:18*

Application: