

Establishing Orders of Servants

1. What's the Problem?
2. How Does God Provide Through His Church?
3. We Are Called to Serve the Needy.

The restructuring of God's people for global mission brings conflict and misunderstanding. As God's kingdom takes root among the nations we see God provide for His people by establishing orders of servants with specific callings who are to work together as His Body. We serve Christ together as witnesses to Christ's resurrection through prayer, proclamation, and peace-making. The deacons help to lead in the service of the tables which is an important aspect of peace-making regarding the widows. How are we serving one another in these ways?

James 1:26 – 27: “If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

Numbers 27: 15 – 23

Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.” So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation.” And Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him as the Lord directed through Moses.

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Question #27: How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

Answer: So that the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What blind spots do you have? As a Christian, what things about serving Christ and one another are especially difficult? Are there ways we are called to serve that you may not even recognize? How would you know? How can others within the Body of Christ help us? God has provided us deacons in part to help us in serving one another faithfully.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ Acts 6:1-7; James 1:26-27; First Timothy 3:8-13. DISCUSS, What is Jesus preparing the Church to do? What are some of the growing pains they are experiencing? What are the ramifications of Christ's kingdom being global? How are you (we) serving in that mission? PRAY for God to enable us to serve Him and one another well. Ask God to give our deacons and elders wisdom and strength.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring repentance and renewal to us at FCCW and throughout His Church.

Monday

READ Acts 6:1-7; First Timothy 3:8-13. DISCUSS, These are strange qualifications for waiters. What is going on? How does our role as peace-makers help to explain this role for deacons? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for enabling us to serve You and one another. Teach us to do so with grace and wisdom."

Tuesday

READ Acts 6:1-7; Numbers 27:15-23. DISCUSS, How is the continuation of service from Moses to Joshua similar and different from the same from Jesus to His deacons? How are we all called to serve one another? PRAY, "Jesus, You are the King of All, the promised Messiah, Savior of the World. Enable us to serve You as we should and to give You faithful service as our Lord."

Wednesday

READ Acts 6:1-7; Ephesians 4:11-16; First Timothy 3:1-13. DISCUSS, How are we to work together in the Church as the Body of Christ? For what are elders and deacons responsible? For what are we all responsible? Thank the Lord for including us in His work. PRAY, "Lord, You have promised to build Your Church. Help us to trust You in speaking the truth in love."

Thursday

READ Acts 6:1-7; 1Peter 4:8-11. DISCUSS, How are we supposed to serve? Who? Why? Why would co-heirs with the King of Kings need to serve anyone? What did our Lord do? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You and to see Your wisdom as so much greater than our own."

Friday

READ Acts 6:1-7; James 1:26-27; First Timothy 3:8-13. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has counted you as part of His own! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ Acts 6:1-15; 1Tim 3:8-13. Invite others to watch the *live-stream* service with you tomorrow. Pray for Christ to grant us boldness in following Him.

First Timothy 3: 8 – 13

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.