

Deacons

Purpose:

Acts 6:1-7 – Cultural divide – now have Greeks and Jews in the local church. Apparently those in charge of meeting the needs of widows were Jewish and were not caring for the Greeks.

Allowed the apostles to continue in prayer and the word. Their priority was spiritual food. Deacons to take care of physical. Not given any authority to govern the Church.

Chosen by the congregation. Approved by the Apostles. Resulted in growth of the church.

Qualifications:

1 Timothy 3:8-13 – Many of the qualifications set for the pastor. Understanding the faith. Not a novice in the faith but tested. Good manager of his home. Wives have qualifications also. Rewarded by good reputation and standing in the Church.

Follow-up:

Stephen – martyred in next chapter.

Phillip – Acts 8:5-8 preaching in Samaria – Acts 8:26-39 -witnessing to Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:40 preaching.

Paul refers to Philip again years later in Acts 21:8. Had four daughters who prophesied (Joel 2:28).

Others – not mentioned again.

Women Deacons?

Word is literally – servant – word implies no more authority than required to serve food - no direct act of authority given from scripture that they are over teaching or leading in Church – if followed accordingly a case can be made for deaconess.

Rom 16:1 implies Phoebe was a deaconess.

Rebuttal might be made from qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:11-12. Perhaps single woman could fill it – should consider that church history supports role of deaconess.