

DYNAMIC DEACONS



Champions of Christ's Church

1

THE DEACON'S ROLE



But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Matthew 23.11

2

Definitions of "Great"

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. large in size or dimensions. | 8. distinguished; famous. |
| 2. large in number ; numerous. | 9. of noble or lofty character . |
| 3. unusual or considerable in degree , power, intensity. | 10. chief or principal. |
| 4. wonderful; first-rate . | 11. of high rank , official position, or social standing. |
| 5. extreme or notable degree. | 12. much in use or favor. |
| 6. notable ; remarkable; exceptionally outstanding. | 13. of extraordinary powers ; having unusual merit; very admirable. |
| 7. important ; highly significant or consequential . | 14. of considerable duration or length. |

3

Measuring Greatness

- **Secondary**
 - Fame
 - Fortune
- **Primary**
 - Character
 - Contribution



4

A New Style of Leadership

But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them,

"You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become **great** among you shall be your **servant**. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all."

Mark 10.42-44

5

The Goodness Test

- Acts 10.38
- Galatians 6.10
- Galatians 5.22
- Matthew 7.18



6

I have given you an example – John 13.1-17



7

Fast Facts

- ▣ **2 Locations** (5 times)
 - ▣ Philippians 1.1
 - ▣ 1 Timothy 3.8-13
- ▣ **Support for special usage** (Anglicization)
 - ▣ Mentioned with elders
 - ▣ Qualifications

8

Kicking Up Dust!



9

Why Did God Want Deacons?

- ▣ Increased **responsibility**
- ▣ Increased **visibility**

10

A Deacon Is Not a Glorified Go-fer



11

A deacon is...

- ▣ A **selfless** leader who serves the church
 - ▣ Are you a giver or a taker?
- ▣ A **dependable** leader who supports his elders
 - ▣ Are you a burden or a burden-bearer?
- ▣ An **exemplary** leader who shows Christlikeness
 - ▣ Are you someone's inspiration or excuse?

12

What is a deacon?

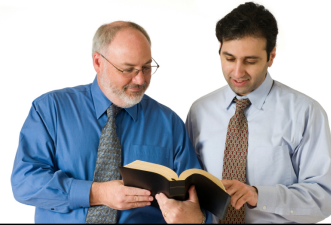
A deacon is more than a **diligent worker** in the church. He is a divinely **designated role model** of righteousness and responsibility. Whatever it takes, he gets the job done. He is an early-adopter and trendsetter in supporting the vision of the elders. He is a servant-hearted saint who defends the faith, cares for the weak, and shares the gospel at every opportunity. A deacon is a protector and promoter of Christ's church.

He is God's champion.

13

How are deacons different from elders?

- Deacons execute the commands of elders.
- They have a more focused scope of responsibility.



14

Dynamic – Romans 12.11

dy·nam·ic [dahy-nam-ik] –*adjective*
 pertaining to or characterized by energy
 or effective action;
 vigorously active or forceful; energetic

15

Describe a Dynamic Deacon

- Gets things done
 - On time
 - With excellence
 - Without drama
- Goes the extra mile
- Exceeds expectations
- Does whatever it takes (WIT)
- Cares about and works well with people

16

Derelict – Ephesians 6.5-7

der·e·lict [der-uh-likht]
 –*adjective*
 neglectful of duty; delinquent; negligent.

17

Describe a Derelict Deacon

- Lacks initiative and procrastinates
- Has to be pushed to get things done
- Has to be petted
- Ruffles feathers
- Doesn't complete tasks or tie up loose ends
- Has plenty of excuses

18

The dynamic deacon motto: "Get'r Done!"



19

THE DEACON'S REQUIREMENTS



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.16

20

God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know it's me.

—Jackie Kelm

21

Deacons Are Qualified to Serve

- They have prepared themselves to take on more responsibility than the average person can handle.
 - They know how to get things done
 - They know how to work well with others.
- They are morally and temperamentally suited to lead.
 - Leaders must be fit to lead in this difficult setting.
 - Paul's list verifies your readiness.

22

"Deacons *must be...*"

- God has provided a list of qualities you need to succeed in this role.
- When any quality is missing, you cannot perform the full range of your duties in the way God intended.
- Putting someone in a position for which he is not prepared does him no favor.

23

Reverent

- **God's sovereignty** (Hebrews 4.13)
- **The Bible's authority** (2 Timothy 3.16)
- **The Church's unity** (Ephesians 4.3)
- **The Elders' responsibility** (Hebrews 13.17)

24

3 High Risk Areas

- Not double-tongued
- Not given to much wine
- Not greedy for money



25

Not double-tongued

- Thoughtless words
- Inflammatory words
- Cruel words
- Deceitful words

26

Not given to much wine

- Confusion about alcohol is not due to lack of biblical information.
 - Paul - Galatians 5.21
 - Solomon - Proverbs 20.1
- What can we conclude from these verses?

27

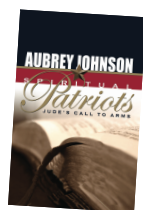
Not greedy for money

- What does greed do?
 - Consumes you (1 John 2.15-17)
 - Corrupts you (Matthew 13.22)
- How do you overcome greed?

28

The mystery of the faith

- Holding
- The faith
- Mystery
- Pure conscience



Learn, love, and live the word of God.

29

Blameless

- Jesus was blameless in the highest sense.
- Paul used the word in reference to men.
 - How can I be blameless before God?
 - How can I be blameless before Man?
- Dynamic deacons learn and grow from their errors.

30

Tested

- Some decisions in life can be made rapidly and intuitively. This is not one of them.
- A man is either ready or he isn't.
- How can testing occur?
- Do not shoot from the hip.

31

Husband of one wife

- A Scriptural marriage is implied.
- A deacon is a faithful man who keeps his promises.
 - What did you promise your wife?
 - When your attention is divided, God's intention is frustrated.

32

Rule their children and houses well

- This is the most practical and telling qualification.
- The conditions of a man's life mirror his inner life.
- If you want to assist the church's business, take care of your own business.

33

Are You Balanced?

- **Family** – Loves and leads his family
- **Attitude** – Promotes peace and progress
- **Speech** – Uses words wisely and constructively
- **Habits** – Demonstrates discipline and dignity
- **Performance** – Does things right and reliably
- **Doctrine** – Is sound and sincere

34

A word of caution to the overscrupulous

- Deacons are flawed but faithful men.
 - Perfection is not possible.
 - Self-correction is the goal.
- If you are humble and honorable enough to heed your conscience, God is pleased.

35

Are You Growing?

Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.

—2 Corinthians 13.5

36

If you can't be a good example,
then you'll just have to serve as a horrible
warning.

—Catherine Aird

37

Be a beacon deacon!



38

THE DEACON'S RESPONSIBILITIES




Well done, good and faithful servant.

Matthew 25.21

39

Deacons are certified problem solvers.


- ▣ Problems place you at the scene of opportunity (Acts 6).
- ▣ Dynamic deacons face crisis with a creative mind and determined heart.
- ▣ How are deacons certified?



40

Execution

- ▣ Get Clear
- ▣ Get Going
- ▣ Get Help
- ▣ Get Results



41

How to Get Clear - Eliminate Ambiguity

- ▣ Ask lots of questions
- ▣ Manage expectations
- ▣ Put things in writing

42

How to Get Going

- Plan upfront
- Construct a timeline
- Seek accountability and feedback
- Ask “What’s the next step?”
- Read a book on procrastination
- Practice pulling the trigger

43

A deacon is a man of initiative.

- He gets going, paces himself, and endures until he fulfills his commitments.
- He has a bias for action and adjusts on the fly.
- He strives for excellence but knows that good is better than perfect.

44

Get Help



Together Everyone Accomplishes **More!**

45

Benefits of Teams

- Teams provide **members** with a sense of purpose and belonging.
- Teams give **you** ideas, perspective, energy, and accountability.
- Teams give your **elders** a higher level of support complete with backup systems.

46

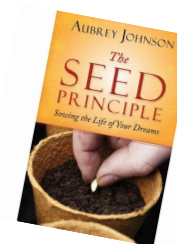
How to Ask for Help

- Recruit one-on-one
- Script and practice your appeal
- Show your excitement
- Touch their hearts
- Compliment their gifts
- Choose the right setting

47

Get results: The Gold-Standard of Success.

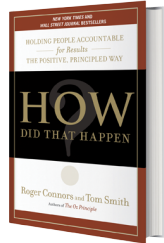
- In matters of faith
 - Honor God’s word
 - Do not worship sacred cows
- In matters of judgment
 - Honor what works
 - Take dead horses off life-support



48

Did I provide enough

- Direction
- Training
- Encouragement
- Accountability



49

What does “done” look like?

- Examples: meals and mowing
- Enlarge your team to include experts in cleanup and closure
- Use a project summary report
- Be mindful of relational results

50

THE DEACON’S RELATIONSHIPS



Through love, serve one another.

Galatians 5.13

51

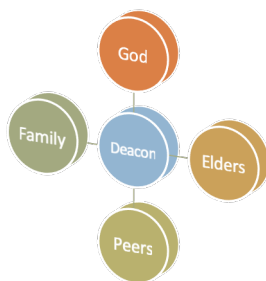
Deacons are in the people business.

- They lead teams
- Rally churches
- Encourage elders
- Inspire youth
- Serve members



52

Utilize your circle of success.



53

Leading without God leads to

- **Worldliness**
 - You may compromise your values.
- **Weariness**
 - You may collapse under your responsibilities.

54

The quality of your relationship with God determines the quality of your ministry results.



55

Elders - Hebrews 13.17

- Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.
- Let them do so with **joy** and not with **grief**, for that would be unprofitable for you.

56

How to bring your elders joy.

- Lead yourself well (1 Timothy 4.16)
- Go the second mile (Matthew 5.41)
- Build the relationship (1 Thess.5.12-13)
- Always improve (John 15.2)

57

Standard Operating Procedures

- Problems
- Commitments
- Requests
- Disagreements
- Assignments
- Conflicts

58

What are deacons' meetings for?

- Reporting
- Supporting
- Celebrating
- Encouraging
- Growing
- Connecting
- Praying



Build a friendship to grow more and serve better.

59

Make an "incredible" marriage your goal.

- Focus
- Flexibility
- Faithfulness
- Friendship



60

Don't take your marriage for granted.

- Prayer
- Postings
- Planning
- Presence



61

Listening is Loving

- **Attention** expresses *affection*
- **Pauses** reveal *priorities*
- **Questions** promote *closeness*
- **Paraphrasing** shows *presence*



62

Flexibility – Philippians 3.14

- What am I missing?
- What would you like me to stop doing?
- What would you like me to do more of?
- What can I do to bring you joy today?

63

Faithfulness

- Settle the issue once and for all in your mind.
- Guard against compromising situations.
- Be loyal emotionally as well as physically.

64

A happy home is about intimacy as well as security.

Does your mate feel more like a soul mate or a cellmate.



65

Friendship

What makes a best friend different?

- More trust and respect
- More openness and honesty
- More delight and inspiration

66

Do the math.

- To multiply your value to the church, build an incredible marriage.
 - Cultivate a servant's heart.
 - Create a base of support.
- The more incredible your marriage, the more effective your ministry.

67

If momma ain't happy...

If your spouse is unhappy with the time you spend on your ministry, ask yourself, "**What need is going unfulfilled that makes her feel this way.**" If you had the time back and could reinvest it, what would she want you to do with it? If you identify and fill the need, you may find she grows more supportive of your ministry.

68

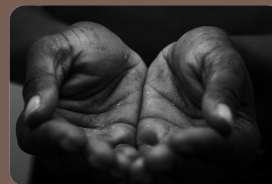
Be a team player.

A successful team beats with one heart.



69

THE DEACON'S REWARD



For God *is* not unjust to forget your work

Hebrews 6.10

70

Please fill out these forms:

- Seminar Evaluation
- Facilitator Endorsement

Leave them on the table to be picked up.

Thank you!

71

Benefits of Serving Well

For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 3.13

72

The more he is faithful, the less he is fearful.

- No problem can defeat him
- No criticism can derail him



73

Next time you feel down, read **Hebrews 11** and see how faith enabled God's greatest servants to overcome the worst life has to offer.

It will do the same for you.

74

Why Do Deacon's Give Up?



75

We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.

—Acts 14.21-22

76

Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

— 1 Corinthians 15.58

77

Bailing does not require you to grow.



78

Fatigue and Discouragement Are Signs

Maybe you

- Don't understand your role
- Need to work on spiritual growth
- Could focus on better strategies
- Need to lean more on others
- Could refine your role

79

When Satan tempts you to quit

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Meet with a friend and pray.
- Do one small thing to advance your ministry.

Shrinking from responsibility is not the path to the life you want (Hebrews 10.39).

80

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found a way to serve.

—Albert Schweitzer

81

2 Corinthians 4.8-9

- **Hard-pressed,**
 - yet not crushed.
- **Perplexed,**
 - but not in despair
- **Persecuted,**
 - but not forsaken
- **Struck down,**
 - but not destroyed



82

Satan will harass you, but he cannot defeat you.

- Pharaoh could not crush Moses.
- Sennacherib could not crush Hezekiah.
- Saul could not crush David.
- Satan could not crush Job.

83

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

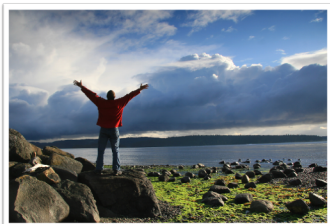


—2 Corinthians 4.16

84

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

—Luke 18.1



85

Thank God for Deacons!

- The work you are doing is absolutely vital to the church.
- Your elders could not function as God intended without your reliable support.

86

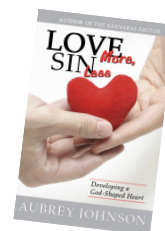
Do not underestimate the value of incremental growth and steady service



87

Every day, look for a small way to

- Make the church better
- Improve yourself
- Help a fellowman
- Bring glory to God



Bring more love to each of life's encounters.

88

Just be faithful



89

Remember, you are

- A trusted lieutenant
- A beacon of light
- A problem solver
- A team player
- A faithful finisher



90

But above all, never forget that you are

God's champion!



91