

The Creation of Deacons



The Administrative Genius of the Apostles

- They Equipped the Saints by Including them in important decisions.
- The Delegation of Authority allowed them to focus on their primary mission
- The Diaconate would become a breeding ground for future leaders

A Bias Complaint

Act 6:1–4 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution...

Delegation of Power

Act 6:1-4 (2) Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables (3) Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; (4) but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The Saints Gain Ministry Experience

Act 6:5-6 **And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose** Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, (6) whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Strengthened by Better Administration

Act 6:7-10 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith...

Opportunities for New Leadership

Act 6:7–10 ... (8) And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people... ... (9) Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. (10) And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

Opportunities for New Leadership

1Ti 3:8–13 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, (9) holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. (10) But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. (11) Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things...

Opportunities for New Leadership

1Ti 3:8–13 ... (12) Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. (13) 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.

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