

The Duties of Deacons in the Local Church

1 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV)

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.*

1. Serve the Practical Needs of the Church

Acts 6:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ 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. 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."

Responsibilities

- Identify unmet physical or logistical needs
- Oversee ministries of care (benevolence, facilities, logistics)
- Ensure no group is overlooked or neglected

Purpose: To prevent distractions from prayer and the ministry of the Word.

2. Protect and Promote Church Unity

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

Responsibilities

- Act as peacemakers
- Address concerns privately and biblically
- Refuse gossip and division
- Speak with one voice in public

Purpose: To safeguard the spiritual health and witness of the church.

3. Support and Strengthen Pastoral Leadership

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

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.

Responsibilities

- Support the vision and direction of pastors/elders
- Serve as trusted encouragers and helpers
- Handle delegated responsibilities faithfully
- Never undermine leadership publicly

Purpose: To enable pastors to lead effectively and joyfully.

4. Model Christlike Character and Servant Leadership

Mark 10:42-45 (NKJV)

⁴² 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. ⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1 Timothy 3:8-12 (NKJV)

⁸ 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. ¹² Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well.

Responsibilities

- Lead by example in conduct and humility
- Maintain moral and spiritual integrity
- Serve without seeking recognition or control

Purpose: To provide visible, credible leadership within the body.

5. Steward Church Resources with Integrity

2 Corinthians 8:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us-- ²¹ providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Responsibilities

- Oversee finances, facilities, and assets when assigned
- Ensure transparency and accountability
- Protect the church's reputation and trust

Purpose:

To honor God and maintain public credibility.

6. Care for the Body of Christ

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)

² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Responsibilities

- Assist with pastoral care (visitation, needs, support)
- Serve widows, the vulnerable, and those in crisis
- Represent the compassion of Christ

Purpose: To demonstrate God's love in tangible ways.

Deacons are spiritually mature servants who meet practical needs, protect unity, support leadership, steward resources, and model Christlike humility for the glory of God and the good of the church.