

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **“Let Them Use The Office Of A Deacon”**

**(I Timothy 3: 10)**

The elders have set three men before the church for your consideration to serve in the capacity of deacons of the Broad Street church to join the 20 men who serve us. They are: Ryan Dunaway, Earl Hargraves, and David Precise. Our elders have invited your input on these men in light of the qualifications found in **I Timothy Chapter Three**. I want to use this space to comment on the servant role of a deacon.

**A. It is an honor to be called upon to serve God’s people in any capacity.**

**Psa 84:10** *“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”*

**B. Our Lord Himself came to minister unto man.**

**Mat 20:28** *“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

**C. Peter actually treats ministering (stewards, servants) as a gift:**

**1 Pet 4:11** *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

**D. Every Christian should long to be a servant,** yet in spite of our faithfulness to serve, there are some things that would go unattended if they are left to everybody’s business. In reality they would become nobody’s business.

**E. Thus God ordained that special servants (*diakonos* – Table Waiters) be appointed in the church.** This is a broad word and refers to everything from “ministering angels” in **Matt 4:11** to Martha serving supper in **John 12:2**. But it has special significance in **I Tim. 3** when a distinctive set of servants are to be appointed in the churches.

**F. Not every christian is suited for this office, one must first be proven. Proven what? Dependable, faithful, willing.** A man should not be expected to be made a deacon for the honor of office but for the specific assignment of work. You ruin a man to make a deacon of him and not have a work for him to do.

**G. Their work can be both spiritual, as with Stephen and Phillip in Acts 7 and 8, or it can be of a material nature as in Acts 6.**

**H. I believe that all the work is spiritual in its ultimate end.** Everything we do is do be done to the glory of God the Father.

**I. Among all the things that are needed in the Lord’s church, certainly we need spiritually minded leaders** – men who will put an emphasis on evangelism in every detail of their job description. If we deliver even a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, we will not lose our reward, Jesus said (**Matt 10:42**).

**J. We are living in the greatest of times as for opportunity to serve.** A world all around us is crying out with needs. You can just throw a dart and hit a need somewhere. So let us be **MINISTERS --- STEWARDS---OF THE GRACE OF LIFE.**

**. . . Terry Broome**

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