

A painting of a shepherd, seen from behind, wearing a blue jacket and dark trousers, holding a staff. He is herding a large flock of sheep in a grassy field. In the background, there are tall, thin trees and a distant horizon under a pale sky. The overall style is realistic with visible brushstrokes.

Douglas Pell

Deacons as “Dust Kickers”

The Workhorses of the Church

ENTER TO WORSHIP,
LEAVE TO SERVE

TWO KINDS
OF PEOPLE
IN THE CHURCH:
WORKERS
AND
WATCHERS
WHICH ARE YOU?

DEACONS - CALLED TO SERVE

1. ASSIST THE ELDERS
2. CARE FOR GCO'S PEOPLE
3. OVERSEE MEETINGS
4. MINISTRY SUPPORT
5. CHURCH MAINTENANCE
6. VISIT THE SICK & SHOT-IN
7. WELCOME & HOSPITALITY
8. TRANSPORTATION
9. YOUTH SUPPORT
10. PRAYER & SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

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- A group of men in suits are running across a red carpeted floor. The man in the foreground is wearing a grey suit and is running towards the right. Behind him, another man in a dark blue suit is also running. To the left, a sign on an easel lists ten items. The scene appears to be inside a church or a formal building, with wooden paneling visible in the background.
4. MINISTRY SUPPORT
 5. CHURCH MAINTENANCE
 6. VISIT THE SICK & SHOT-IN
 7. WELCOME & HOSPITALITY
 8. TRANSPORTATION
 9. YOUTH SUPPORT
 10. PRAYER & SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

Diakonos

God's “Dust Kickers”

Robertson's Word

Pictures

- *dia + konis*
- “raising a dust by hastening”
- Or “through the dust”

Vine

- *Diakonos*
- Servant; Attendant;
- Root = *dioko*
- to hasten after, pursue

Thayer

- Root = *dieko*
- One who executes the commands of another

THE CHURCH'S FIRST "DUST STORM"

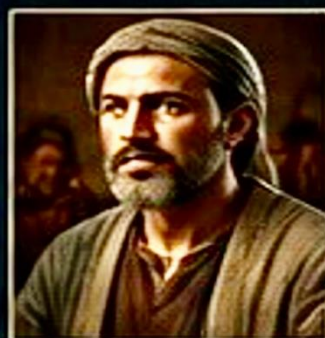
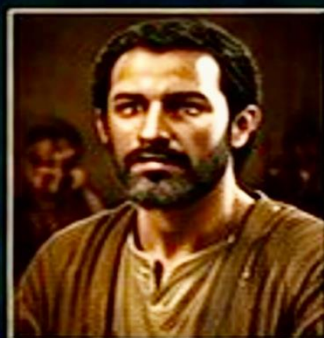
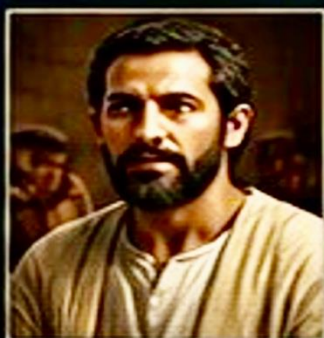
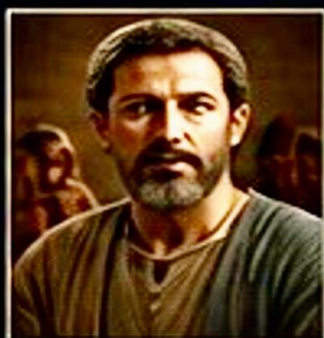
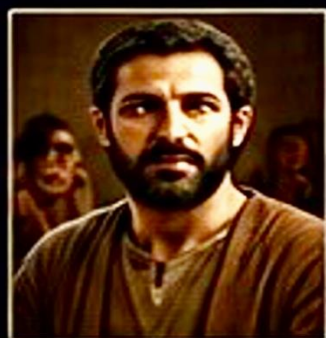
ACTS 6:1-7

WIDOWS OVERLOOKED

APOSTLES' PRIORITY



THE RESOLUTION: APPOINT SEVEN MEN



THEY KICK UP DUST SO THE WORD CAN ADVANCE.

Acts 6:7 God's Process Works

The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Deacons are the Crux

Crux—the central or pivotal point of something.

Church growth is totally dependent upon the production of deacons.

Servant vs. Slave

Diakonos

Luke 22:26 "...the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the **servant**."

Doulos

Matt. 20:27 "and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your **slave**"

Deacon: General Sense vs. The Office

General

- *Presbuteros* — older man
- *Diakonos* — servant, minister, attendant

Office

- *Presbuteros*
 - Specific Qualifications (1 Tim 3; Titus 1)
- *Diakonos*
 - Specific Qualifications (1 Tim 3)

Deacon Qualifications (1 Tim 3:8–13)

1Tim. 3:8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,

1Tim. 3:9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

1Tim. 3:10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

Deacon Qualifications (1 Tim 3:8–13)

1Tim. 3:11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

1Tim. 3:12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.

1Tim. 3:13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

What Do Deacons Do?

- Mission enablers
 - Evangelism
 - Edification
 - Worship
 - (Benevolence is crucial to all three)
- If elders are shepherding souls . . . Deacons are removing obstacles

Deacons as Aides-de-Camp (Camp Assistant)

- Assists a commanding officer (Military)
- Extends leadership capacity
- Executes decisions
- Enhances focus of the primary leader

Deacons and Authority

Key Principle:

**Deacons operate under elder oversight
— not in a separate authority structure.**

Practical Areas of Deacon Work

- Financial integrity
- Worship logistics
- Benevolence
- Removing burdens
- Education
- Building & Grounds
- And so on

**Spiritual or
Physical?**



Final Summary: The Crux of the Matter

- Tested servants
 - Firm hold on the gospel
 - Support the shepherds
 - Enhance leadership
 - Protect mission focus

Before a man ever
becomes a deacon
in office

Become a deacon
in spirit

A servant of Christ.