

**INTRO TO THE DEACON  
STUDY GUIDE**  
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**THE SERVANT MODEL**

The purpose of the ***Mystery of Godliness*** is God's revelation of Himself, through His people, to all that He wills. It is through this general call of God that one finds His specific requirement of Church leaders to be Christlike examples at home, within the Church, and their communities. As Henry Webb writes, "Those who are called by Christ's name (***Christians, Acts 11:26***) should be honored to model His life in their lives."

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF CHRISTLIKENESS**

- THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH (***1 Thessalonians 1:1-8***)
- PAUL ENCOURAGES TIMOTHY (***1 Timothy 4:6-12***)
- PAUL ENCOURAGES TITUS (***Titus 2:1-8***)

**THE PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF JESUS**

- SUBMISSION & SUFFERING FOR GOOD (***1 Peter 2:18-25***)
- SUBMISSION AND SERVITUDE (***Mark 10:35-45, John 13:12-17***)

**THE SERVANT LEADER**

Although all of God's people are called to serve, there is biblical governance established to maintain sound order and structure in the New Testament Church. This governance is known as the ***Ecclesiastical Polity***. We believe that the order of leadership within this polity consists of the Apostle, Pastor, and Deacon. This course has been prepared with the intent of focusing on the office of the Deacon.

**DEACON:** Greek word ***diakonos***, derived from the obsolete root word ***diako***

- **DEFINITION:** a servant, minister, waiter; to "kick up dust" as one running an errand (***Strong's Concordance #1249, #1377; Vine's Expository Dictionary of the New Testament***)

**THE BIBLICAL OFFICE**

- THE ORIGIN OF THE OFFICE (***Acts 6:1-7***)
- SPECIFIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICE (***Philippians 1:1-2***)
- QUALIFICATIONS OF THE OFFICE (***1 Timothy 3:8-13***)

## **THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

The most effective Servant Leaders will always be the ones who continuously seek to be in the presence of God. They allow His Spirit to be the voice that guides them, as well as empower them to minister to the people.

For the Deacon to clearly know he's in the constant presence of God, there must first be true fellowship established with God. This fellowship is strengthened through continual prayer and meditation.

## **THE PERSONAL EXAMPLES OF JESUS**

- BEFORE GOING OUT TO PREACH (*Mark 1:35-39*)
- BEFORE BEING TEMPTED (*Luke 4:1-13*)
- AS HIS POPULARITY INCREASED (*Luke 5:15-16*)
- AT NIGHT AFTER TEACHING (*Luke 21:37-38*)
- PREPARING FOR CALVARY (*Luke 22:39-43*)

## **NOT FEELING QUALIFIED**

- THIS IS NOT AN UNCOMMON FEELING
  - IT SHOULD NOT REMAIN A COMMON FEELING
- IF GOD CALLED YOU, HE WILL BE WITH YOU
  - MOSES (*Exodus 3:1-(9-12)*)
  - ISAIAH (*Isaiah 6:1-(5)13*)
  - JEREMIAH (*Jeremiah 1:1-(5-9) 19*)

## **IF GOD CALLED YOU HE WILL QUALIFY YOU**

- THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE DEACON ARE VISIBLE IN THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL FIRST
- THEN TAUGHT TAUGHT FOR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING AND REVERENCE OF THE OFFICE.
- THEN TAUGHT AND HELD AS THE STANDARD OF THE CHURCH
- (*Acts 6:3, 1 Timothy 3:8-12*)

1. BE FULL OF THE SPIRIT (*John 15:1-(5)(8), Galatians 5:22-23*)

2. SEEK THE WISDOM OF GOD (*James 1:5, 3:13-18; Psalm 119:11; Romans 8:28, Ephesians 3:14-19; Philippians 4:6-8*)

3. SEE OTHERS THROUGH GOD'S EYES (*Matthew 5:44, 6:14-15, 9:36-38, 18:21-22*)

4. MATURE IN THE FAITH (*Philippians 3:(12-14)16;1 John 2:3-(5-6)8; 1 Peter 2:(21)-25*)
- LIFESTYLE OF THE CALLED
  - LIFESTYLE OF THE CHOSEN
  - LIFESTYLE OF THE CONSECRATED
    - (*Romans 8:29-30*)