



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 16, 2022

Heart to Heart...

Sometimes in the body of Christ, we put great emphasis on the eldership and the men selected for that work and it should be serious and looked at closely in light of Scripture. But when it comes to deacons, we don't place as much emphasis on these men and their work which can be destructive to the body of Christ. We should exercise great care in selecting deacons as we do elders.

Deacons are men who are special servants to look after specific needs of the body. I don't want anyone to think that their usefulness is of little value unless they are a deacon. There are numerous ones that serve the Lord out of love without the position of a deacon. Paul said it this way to the church: ***"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."*** (I Corinthians 15:58) We need to all concern ourselves with ***"abounding in the work of the Lord."***

These men we call deacons are not the authority in the body of Christ, to have over-sight, but they do hold a position of high regard and respect. Their position as a special servant is noted because we are given the character of the men who serve in this capacity (I Timothy 3:8-13). (We will look at this more closely next week.) The Lord had their importance written in the Scripture to help us make certain these are men of faith we call deacons, are trustworthy, sound in doctrine and can be trusted to the work to which they have been called. After speaking of elders and deacons, then comes the charge: ***"but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct themselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and the support of the truth."*** (I Timothy 3:15) Some have gone so far as to say that the elders watch over the church in "spiritual" matters while the deacons watch over the "physical" matters. This is never taught in Scripture. Deacons are charged with certain duties that

need to be faithfully carried out and attended to toward the Lord. The physical is part of the spiritual service needed. They are interwoven.

Our deacons need to excel in being faithful to their task. Men whom we trust with the work of the Lord. Over the many years, I've known some deacons who do nothing with the task they were chosen to serve and that is a wreck on their soul. When we look for men to serve as special servants among us, they need to be known for their service to the Lord, their faithfulness to His word and their lives lived as an example with the attitude of Jesus. The word of the Lord speaks: ***"These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."*** (I Timothy 3:10) These men are servants in the church and the church knows they serve well in their following the Lord. That's how they are tested.

In Acts 6, we see the church involved in selecting men for service. We do not know if these were deacons being appointed as the Scriptures do not say but the conduct and character of these men, were of vital importance. As the apostles had the oversight at this time in the church, there were Hellenistic, (Jewish women born outside Palestine, adopted the Greek language and customs where the Hebrew women kept with the Jewish Hebrew language and customs), who were being over-looked is the serving of daily food. The apostles told the church, ***"Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."*** (Acts 6:3) This was a physical need being overlooked, but it was affecting the spiritual well-being of the church. Look at what type of men were put in place to work this service of need. This is an example when we select from among ourselves men to serve as deacons among us, they are spiritually appraised, well-grounded, faithful in their homes and lives. There is nothing more destructive to the name of the Lord than having deacons as bad influences and examples. There is accountability to Jesus in all this. We must know these men and who they are in Christ in order to carry out the spiritual wellbeing of our congregation. Pray for these men. Pray as we prepare to select a few more men to help with specific needs in our congregation. Think about it!!!

Brent