

**Sermon Text:** Acts 6:1-7 What Kind of Men for Office?

**The Lord calls for and appoints reputable, Spiritual, and wise men to ministerial offices for the good of His Church and for the glory of His Kingdom.**

**1) Two types of ministerial office in this text:**

- a) daily/table ministry (vv. 1, 2): anticipating office of deacon (1 Tim. 3:8-13)
- b) Word and prayer ministry (vv. 2, 3): Apostolic Office, followed by other ministers of the Word (Eph. 4:11—“Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers)
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Every member is a minister (1 Cor. 12:4-11). Not every member is an officer (“out from among you,” v. 3; cf. James 3:1; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-13)
  - ii) Elder Ministry and Diaconal Ministry are distinct works, requiring specific gifts and skills. One is not a stepping stone to another.

**2) Three attributes essential to ministerial office:**

- a) Reputable—people can bear witness to his good character (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9); must be known (cf. 1 Tim. 3:6, 10)
- b) Spiritual—“full of the Spirit” (cf. vv. 5, 10)
  - i) Appropriate Spiritual gifts (see 1 Cor. 12:4-11)
  - ii) Spiritual empowerment
  - iii) Spiritual fruit (see Gal. 5:22-23)
- c) Wise—Spiritually minded (see Rom. 8:5-6; 1 Cor. 2:13, 14); able to make judicious application of revealed truth
- d) **Application:**
  - i) Church suffers when unqualified men are installed.
  - ii) Church suffers when qualified men don’t make themselves available for service.

**3) Two goals of ministerial office:**

- a) Good of the Church
  - i) Neglected Members are no longer under-served (v. 1)
  - ii) Division is healed (v. 1)
  - iii) The Ministry of the Word flourishes (v. 2)
- b) Glory of Christ’s Kingdom (v. 7)
  - i) The Word of God increases in the earth.
  - ii) People are converted to Christ.
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Church health is promoted when Pastors/Elders are devoted to the Ministry of the Word and Prayer. It suffers when they are distracted from it.
  - ii) Deacons play a vital role in promoting the Ministry/Ministers of the Word.
  - iii) Deacons play a vital role in the practical increase of love in the body of Christ.
  - iv) If you are a qualified man, would you serve? If you are married to a qualified man, would you support his service? Will you pray for God to raise up faithful men to fill these offices in our church? Will you pray for the officers God has already appointed in this church?

**Doxology:** Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground. Psalm 147:1-6