

## SENT BY CHRIST TO SERVE

### INTRODUCTION

1. Grateful for Frank & Jill Sibilla - joined 1995; ordained deacon 1997 [26.5 yrs]
  - i. Jn 1:6 God's "program" [Eph 4:11]
  - ii. Leaders = ministers. Agents of Christ's rule & care for His people.

#### 1st: A Faithful Deacon Expresses the Compassion of Christ

1. Isaiah: *servant of the Lord*. Lk 4:18-19 - 1] preach & 2] works of compassion
2. Mt 9:35-36 preached & healed = expression of His compassion. Shepherd by words & deeds.
3. Paul to establish leaders in Rome - Rm 1:11. Rm 12:6-8 elders & deacons.
4. Deacons express Jesus' compassionate care for His people.

#### 2nd: A Faithful Deacon Expresses the Government of Christ

1. Authority - Mt 20:25-28 govern as a *servant*: wash feet of disciples [Jn13].
2. Elders & deacons [Phil 1:1]. 1C 16:15-16 be in *subjection*

#### 3rd: A Faithful Deacon Expresses the Wisdom of Christ

1. Practical problem solving in practical obedience. A6:1-7 practical need
  - i. Apostles prescribe necessary qualifications authorized by Christ, but people act by power of HS to recognize & receive qualified men.
  - ii. Differentiate legitimate authority & requisite power.
2. Leaders shepherd people onto paths illuminated by Word; marshal the gifts of each disciple to contribute to the good of the group.

#### 4th: A Faithful Deacon Labors for the Reward of Christ

1. Much goes unnoticed & at times appears unfruitful.
2. Motivated by rewards - 1T3:13.

**Applic: Let Us All Be Faithful Servants of Christ.** Mt 9 [v35-36] - v37-38. We are each "God's program:" *There came a man whose name was* [your name] *sent from God.* Pray for Christ to send workers to His harvest. Pray, *here am I, send me* [Isa 6:8].