



**“The Important Role of the Deacon”  
Philippians 1:1; Acts 6:1-7**



## **Philippians 1:1 (NKJV)**

**1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:**





## **Acts 6:1–7 (NKJV)**

**1** Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

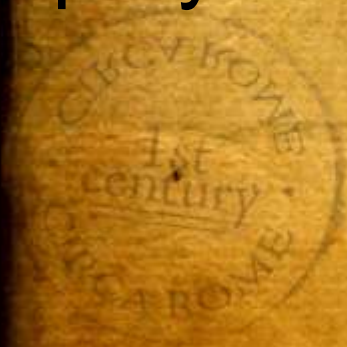
**2** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.



## **Acts 6:1–7 (NKJV)**

**3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

**4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”





## **Acts 6:1–7 (NKJV)**

**5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,  
**6** whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.



## **Acts 6:1–7 (NKJV)**

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.





**I. The Significance of the Word**

**II. The Significance of the Work**





# I. The Significance of the Word

## 1. Domestic servants, John 2:5, 9

### John 2:5, 9 (NKJV)

5 His mother said to the **servants**, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the **servants** who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.





## 2. The civil ruler

### Romans 13:4 (NKJV)

4 For he is God's **minister** to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's **minister**, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.





### 3. Christ

#### **Romans 15:8 (NKJV)**

8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a **servant** to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers,

#### **Galatians 2:17 (NKJV)**

17 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a **minister** of sin? Certainly not!



## 4. The followers of Christ in relation to their Lord

**John 12:26 (NKJV)**

**26** If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My **servant** will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.



## 4. The followers of Christ in relation to their Lord

### Ephesians 6:21 (NKJV)

21 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful **minister** in the Lord, will make all things known to you;





## 4. The followers of Christ in relation to their Lord

### **Colossians 1:7 (NKJV)**

7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful **minister** of Christ on your behalf,

### **Colossians 4:7 (NKJV)**

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful **minister**, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.



## 5. The followers of Christ in relation to one another

### Matthew 20:26 (NKJV)

26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your **servant**.





## 5. The followers of Christ in relation to one another

**Matthew 23:11 (NKJV)**

**11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.**





## 5. The followers of Christ in relation to one another

### Mark 9:35 (NKJV)

**35** And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and **servant** of all.”







## 5. The followers of Christ in relation to one another

### Mark 10:43 (NKJV)

43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your **servant**.





## 6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching

### 1 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV)

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but **ministers** through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?





## **6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching**

### **2 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV)**

**6** who also made us sufficient as **ministers** of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.





## 6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching

### 2 Corinthians 6:4 (NKJV)

4 But in all things we commend ourselves as **ministers** of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,



## **6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching**

### **2 Corinthians 11:23 (NKJV)**

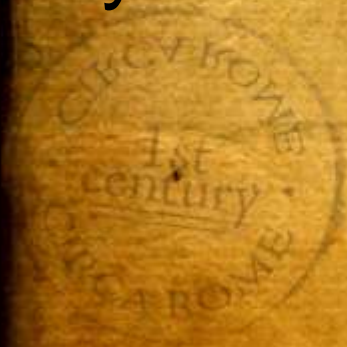
**23** Are they **ministers** of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.



## 6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching

### Ephesians 3:7 (NKJV)

7 of which I became a **minister** according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.





## 6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching

### Colossians 1:23 (NKJV)

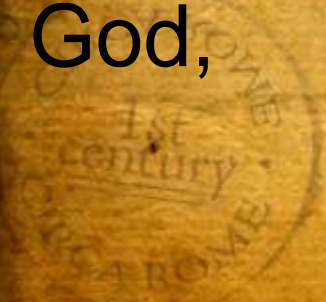
23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a **minister**.



## 6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching

### Colossians 1:25 (NKJV)

25 of which I became a **minister** according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,







## 6. The servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching

### 1 Timothy 4:6 (NKJV)

6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good **minister** of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.



## 7. Those who serve in the churches

### **Romans 16:1 (NKJV)**

1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a **servant** of the church in Cenchrea,

### **Philippians 1:1 (NKJV)**

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and **deacons:**



## 7. Those who serve in the churches

### 1 Timothy 3:8 (NKJV)

8 Likewise **deacons** must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

### 1 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Let **deacons** be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.



## 8. False apostles, servants of Satan

### 2 Corinthians 11:15 (NKJV)

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his **ministers** also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.





## **II. The Significance of the Work (Acts 6:1-7)**

### **1. There was a complaint (v. 1)**

1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.



## **2. There was a congregational meeting (v. 2)**

**2** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

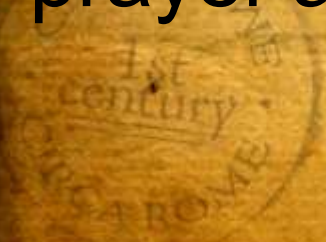




### **3. There was a command (vv. 3-4)**

**3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

**4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”





#### **4. There was a consensus (vv. 5-6)**

**5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,  
**6** whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.





## **5. There was a compounding of the gospel (v. 7)**

**7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

