

Make Me A Servant

Reading: [Matthew 20:20-28](#)

Text: [Acts 6:1-6](#); [1 Timothy 3:8-13](#)

- **Heart of a Servant**

Give me the heart of a servant, Tender and faithful and true.

Fill me with love, then use me, O Lord, So that the world can see You.

- **Servant Song**

Lord, make me a servant, Lord, make me like You;

For You are a servant, make me one, too.

Lord, make me a servant, do what You must do

To make me a servant; make me like You.

- Why Does Our Youth Group and others around the country sing these songs or others like them? Because of verses like this one:

[Matthew 20:25-28](#) But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **It shall not be so among you.** But whoever would be great among you must be your **servant**, and whoever would be first among you must be your **slave**, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but **to serve**, and **to give** his life as a ransom for many.”

1356 **διάκονος** (diakonos), **servant**, one who serves, without necessarily having the office of deacon (Mt 20:26; Ro 16:1; Eph 6:21; 1Th 3:2 v.r.), 2. **deacon**, one entrusted to serve the needs of believers (Php 1:1; Ro 16:1; Eph 6:21; 1Ti 3:8, 12), Swanson, J. (1997). **Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains**

1528 I. δούλος (doulos), **slave, servant** (Mt 8:9; Mk 10:44; Jn 8:34; 15:15; Ro 6:20; 1Co 7:21; Gal 3:28; Eph 6:5; 1Ti 6:1; Phm 16) Swanson, J. (1997). **Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains**

Based upon Jesus’ instructions, the phrase “office of deacon” is misleading. Using that phrase does the opposite of what Jesus meant with “diakonos.” Jesus meant “Servant” and emphasized it with “doulos/Slave.” Now, I know that most people don’t care anything about Greek, but some words were not translated, they were simply changed or transliterated into English words. Jesus used the exact same word that Paul used in 1 Timothy 3, but Jesus’ word was translated servant, but Paul’s word was transliterated “deacon.” Paul spoke what Jesus wanted, but translators want it to be called an “office!” Jesus wanted us to be servants, but translators wanted a position!

- Being a deacon is being a servant, in relationship to the church it is an opportunity for a Christian man to be “one **entrusted to serve** the needs of believers”
- This is not a political strategy of the world that many use to get into “office.” It really means “entrusted” and it really means “serve.”
- Paul called himself a servant in many of his epistles and THEN called himself an apostle, even though an apostle also describes someone **sent by another** to provide a **message**.
- What I’m telling you is more than definitions, it is a basic **attitude** of Christianity.

1. The Background of Deacons

[Acts 6:1-6](#)

Even though the word deacon is not used here, it provides an example of what servants do.

- Deacons do whatever needs to be done so that the elders, apostles, and evangelists can continue preaching the word. [v. 2, 4](#)
- What is most important here? Preaching the word! Why? OUR job is to get as many people to heaven as possible, if there any distractions, it hinders OUR real purpose: saving souls!
- Sometimes we need to take care of temporary problems so eternal issues can be discussed.

Notice These “Servants” Continued Their Concern For The Word!

- Steven one of the seven is arrested for teaching Christ [Acts 6:8-7:60](#) and stoned to death
- Philip, also one of the seven, with most Christians flees the persecution in Jerusalem and goes to Samaria to preach the gospel, Simon The Sorcerer is converted. From there Philip was sent to the road to Gaza to preach the gospel to the Ethiopian Eunuch, then somewhere else.

Notice These “Servants” Had Qualifications

[Acts 6:3](#)

seven men “of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom”

[Acts 6:5](#)

they chose “Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”

2. Paul’s Instruction On Deacons

[1 Timothy 3:8-13](#)

Must Be’s

- **dignified**; grave; serious; “worthy of respect”
- **not double-tongued** “a tale-bearer, one who says one thing to one person and another thing to another person, trying to gain the favor of both.”
- **not addicted to much wine**; Not a good translation; “While total abstinence is not explicitly demanded in the Bible, sobriety is certainly stressed; modern problems encourage the church to take a stand against alcohol and drunkenness.” (Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the N.T.)
- **not greedy for dishonest gain**; (clearly said)
- **hold the mystery of the faith** [Notice v. 16](#) there is some basic doctrine to be understood;
- **with a clear conscience**. [1 Timothy 1:5](#) The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
- **And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.** Let them demonstrate their maturity before given any responsibilities
- **Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.** Certainly, an indication of a Christian home and that Christian support is found there.

A Blessing To Deacons

- For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.