

Deacon Ordination

Charge to Church

Acts 6:3

I. Intro

- A. **Question:** What does it mean when a church body ordains one to service of deacon?
- B. **Ordain** (def.) - to invest; (Heb.) - to give, put, or make; (Gr.) - to make, or do
 - i. **Ordaining one to serve as deacon is investment for us as church – our trust, our confidence they will serve this body to the glory of God**
 - ii. **Office of deacon not just a position, it's a service**
- C. **In the early Christian church, when first men chosen to help in distribution of food to widows, when first called deacon; they were specifically chosen to serve – not as spiritual/ministry leaders of the church (elder, overseers), but they would lead by serving; they would serve in the church body, but ultimately they served Christ through the church**
- D. **Acts 6:3-4 (NIV): The twelve disciples told believers ...**
 - ³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility (**distribution of food, ministering to/serving the body of Christ**) over to them
 - ⁴ and will give our attention (**spiritual/ministry leaders**) to prayer and the ministry of the word."
- E. **Look at the “what” and “why” of this ordination today**

II. The “What”

- A. **Question:** What exactly is this ordination doing for the church?
Strengthening it
- B. **Question:** What is the church? It's us – it's all saints/believers in Christ;
The church exists to be the channel through which the Lord works to accomplish His work on this earth
- C. **Establishment of church: Ephesians 2:19-21 (ESV)**
 - 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
 - 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
 - 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
- D. **Reason for church's existence: Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)**
 - 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and

teachers,

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

- E. **So strengthening the church (us, group of believers which make up this body of Christ, this church) means strengthening us, equipping ourselves for *work of ministry* in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to uttermost parts of the earth – and for *building up* this body (physical growth of church and spiritual growth of church**
- F. **Mission statement of our church says we're to be a body of believers *actively living in obedience to the Biblical mandates of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19, 20 (the Great Commission) and Acts 1:8.***
 - i. **Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)**
 - 19 Therefore go (outside the walls of the church building) and make disciples of all nations (spread the Gospel bringing people to salvation through faith in Christ), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (connecting them with the body, the church)
 - 20 and teaching (discipling) them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
- G. **So “what” we are doing today by ordaining Jody to the service of deacon is strengthening our church, strengthening ourselves, for the work of ministry in body of Christ, our church, in order that the Gospel of Christ might be proclaimed and people are added to, and disciplined toward spiritual maturity in, the body of Christ, this church**

III. The “Why”

- A. Basically, already answered
- B. Contact with people everyday are lost and dying; the overwhelming majority of the population of this planet will die and end up eternally separated from God with absolutely no more hope – this even includes some who are regular church attenders
- C. Billy Sunday quote: *If going to church makes you a Christian, then going into the barn will make you a horse*
- D. I've heard some stated this way: *Just like going into MacDonalds doesn't make you a Big Mac, just going to church doesn't make you a Christian*
- E. Pastor quote: *If people can't see well and can't afford eyeglasses and the church doesn't help them get glasses, then the Lion's club will; If poor, seriously ill children don't have healthcare and the church doesn't help them*

get medical attention, then the Shriners (or government) will; If people are devastated by a storm and the church doesn't get them the relief they need, then the Red Cross will; But if there are people in our neighborhoods, state, nation, and world who are lost and don't know Jesus Christ and the way to salvation and the church doesn't tell them then nobody will

- F. So “why” we are ordaining Jody to the service of deacon today? Because people need a Savior – they need Jesus Christ; and ordaining Jody should strengthen this body of believers to do just that

IV. Close

A. So here's the charge to You and I, the church today

B. 1 – After Moses' death, just before Israelites entered the Promised Land under leadership of Joshua, the Lord spoke to him saying: Joshua 1:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.

⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

i. So church, let's be strong and courageous – let's be obedient to all our Lord's commands, not turning to the right or the left – then, nothing will be able to stand against us

C. 2 – Let's get serious about being the church and continuing the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ here on this earth; come alongside your spiritual ministry leaders and your deacons and serve/minister to one another, serve/minister to community, ultimately serving the Lord