



THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO APPOINT LEADERS *Acts 6:1-7*

Sunday, August 22, 2021
Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning Church. I have enjoyed this series of "Looking at Church Leaders: Elders and Deacons". This study has encouraged my role as your Pastor and hopefully has prepared you to prayerfully listen to God, trusting in the spirit's leading, and considering how we, as a church, help those that God calls to a plurality of elders for this church and deacons who assist them. The timing and decision is, of course, up to the Lord. It is only fitting that when God speaks, we answer the call with an enthusiastic yes.

Acts 6:1-7

"Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. **2** And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. **3** Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. **4** But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' **5** And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. **6** These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith."

1. LISTEN to The Need (v. 1)

2. Understand the CALLING and RESPONSIBILITY (v. 2, 4-6)

- A ministry of the WORD and PRAYER
- A ministry to SERVE people's physical NEEDS
- A Deacon is to be TESTED and BLAMELESS

3. Give INSTRUCTIONS for a Solution (v. 3)

- A Man of Good REPUTE — good character and reputation
- Full of the SPIRIT and WISDOM — Spirit-controlled behavior

We need men who aspire to such a calling, but the church is responsible to affirm and appoint the called. We need men who live in a way that give reputation for one's self, the church and Christ.

4. Continue to SHARE the Word of God and See the Church GROW.

After we examine and evaluate men within the church, the 2nd Step is testing and training these men.

- Inculcate in these men these qualities and theological training
- Call the men forward when we see these qualities in them
- Encourage them to explore this calling in their lives
- Brought alongside Elders who will disciple and mentor them in their training