

## A MORE BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY LEADERSHIP ROLE/FUNCTION OF “DEACON”

One of the best **phrases** I have found to use instead of the word “**deacon**” is: **Ministry Team Servant-Leader**  
→ although it is descriptive, it seems to be more biblical without the traditional *churchy* “baggage” the word “deacon” may carry

1. **BIBLICAL DATA:** Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philip. 1:1

(We **ONLY** have **ONE** situation that is **a pattern** for us to look at... as a real-life, “**local church family**” situation that is **RECORDED** for us in Holy Scripture ... it is given to help us understand the biblical “function/role” of “deacon” → see Acts 6:1-7)

2. It is real, **FUNCTIONAL** leadership... **SERVANT-LEADERSHIP** - otherwise it would not be in the above passages. It is **functional** and **real**... it **does NOT** describe a man who is just willing to “pitch in” and help in any way possible (although that should be the **NORM** within the Body of Christ... see **1 Peter 2:9** “the Priesthood of the believer” - all believers [*saints*] are “ministers”... **but** this does **NOT** mean all believers *can be or should be* “deacons” or “elders”) It is **NOT** describing someone, as a person sitting on the “bench” during a game, waiting to be sent into the game (that would describe a “team player” or a “team member”... **NOT** a “team leader”).

3. It is **NOT** similar to the eldership role/function in **SCOPE** of leadership, but **IS** similar in “quality” & “character” The Ministry **LEADERSHIP SCOPE** of a “deacon” is **SPECIFIC** and **DIRECT**  
(“deacons” **do not** have to have the *eldership requirement* of the *need* to be “able or apt to teach” or to “defend the faith”... [please see 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:14-26]  
Also, the **elders’ SCOPE of LEADERSHIP** is to **OVERSEE** the **OVERALL** local church family and HER **overall** ministry)

4. It is **servant-leadership** → that **LEADS MINISTRY** that **TOUCHES** real lives → **DIRECTLY & SPECIFICALLY**. It is local church family **MINISTRY**. It is **SPECIFIC Ministry Leadership**. It is **NOT** something that is **INDIRECT** nor is it something that *can be or should be outsourced*. It is something that is **needful** and **vital** ... is God-called, God-anointed, God-provided, and God-led... it **DIRECTLY** ministers to real people... it helps the overall local church family to multiply disciples greatly (see Acts 6:7) **AND** it frees-up the elders to pursue what they are suppose to be doing... etc... (biblically, this is true [see Acts 6:1-7] and our current by-laws states this, as well)

5. It **IS** → **TEAM** Leadership... **SERVANT-LEADERSHIP** that is **TEAM** Leadership.

**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**ccomplishes **M**ore (acronym for **TEAM**).

Teams typically have a mission/purpose/task to fulfill... (short-term, medium-term, and/or long term)

Teams have leadership... (could be one leader, co-leadership, or leadership council [more than 2 leaders])

Teams have team players or team members - that compose each team...

team players / team members typically have various gifts/talents/abilities/skills that they can “bring to the table”, so to speak, that can help with the overall and specific team functions/activities/purposes, etc.

**Thus**, if we can hire someone to mow the lawn, do our book-keeping, do building maintenance... those activities and/or functions would **not** necessarily be **biblically-based ministry**, would they be? And, in some cases, these are “**needed**” activities and/or functions for a local church family (**and much appreciated, indeed**). Although, real, born-again, members of our local church family can do all of these things, “pitching in to help”... **FROM** a **biblical point of view**, these really would **not** be considered “**ministry**”. Real, biblically-based “Body-Life” ministry **ALWAYS** touches real people **DIRECTLY** with God’s Love, Grace, Mercy, and TRUTH... in a direct **RELATIONAL way**...

We **NEED** to divorce our thinking from the Industrial AGE way of thinking of “church” and of “church ministries” as **departments** with **directors** over them. We need to divorce our thinking from the “**business**” model of church and of church ministry... and get back to real Biblical ways of thinking regarding this subject. We need to get back to **relational-based, functional ministry** and ministry leadership, as we see **recorded** in Holy Scripture.

### EXAMPLE:

A Sunday School teacher would **not** be considered a deacon, functionally. Typically a Sunday School teacher is teaching a class. The class is not his team, but are the recipients of his teaching. But, a “Sunday School” Ministry “Leader”, would be considered a “deacon” in the biblical sense, since he is leading and overseeing a **specific** ministry... a **ministry team** composed of “teachers”... in which he is leading and overseeing. The **SCOPE is SPECIFIC**, he has **team members**, and those team members and the overall ministry is **DIRECTLY ministering** God’s LOVE, GRACE, MERCY and **TRUTH** to real human beings.

So... what **TEAM** are you leading **now**... **who** is on your TEAM... and **why** does your Ministry TEAM exist?