



### **What is a Deacon?**

**διακονος:** *“primarily denotes a servant, whether as doing servile work, or as an attendant rendering free service, without particular reference to its character... διακονος views a servant in relationship to his work; δουλος views him in relationship to his master.”* (W. E. Vine)

This word is used 29 times in the New Testament. Identify how it is used in each of the following passages:

**John 2:5 –**

**Matt 20:26 –**

**1 Cor 3:5 / Col 1:23 –**

**Php 1:1 / 1 Tim 3:8-13 –**

### **Acts 6:1-7**

What are some reasons we might conclude these men are the type of deacons spoken of in **Php 1:1** and **1 Tim 3:8-13**? Are there any reasons you believe we should not identify these men as deacons?

What conclusions can we draw about the work or role of deacons based on this passage?

Based on this understanding of a deacons work, what are some areas of ministry at Eastside that might be appropriate for us to entrust to deacons?

### Why Do We Need Deacons?

Why was there a need for deacons in **Acts 6:1-2**?

How does the illustration of the body in **1 Cor 12:4-20** help us see the need for deacons? Should all parts of the body be doing the exact same work? Why not?

How does Moses' experience in **Ex 18:13-26** help us see the need for deacons? If all the needs of a congregation fall on the shoulders of elders or evangelists, what will be the result?

What were the basic qualities a deacon needed to possess according to **Acts 6:3**? Why would it be important for a deacon to possess these qualities? What kinds of problems may arise if he did not? (*we will discuss the qualities listed in **1 Tim 3:8-13** more thoroughly in a later study*)