

Ministry Philosophy A study of Acts 6:4

Background:

The growth of the early church demanded a distribution of responsibility. The initiation of the deaconate indicates a split in who would do what jobs. Clearly, the selected and ordained deacons were responsible for serving the congregation by meeting daily needs of life. The context of Acts 6 establishes a physical need, but there is a natural spiritual connection. In meeting some physical needs, relationships were developed that built spiritual comradery.

Another purpose in establishing the deaconate was to hand over the vocational responsibility of Bible ministry and prayer to others. In the context of the early church in Jerusalem, it was the apostles who assumed that task. As the church developed and moved out of the era of the apostles, the office of pastor/teacher was born. It is therefore concluded that the pastor/teacher must do these jobs in our context at EWFCB.

Explanation:

Ministry of the Word – serving Scripture

1. Through preaching – the public proclamation of God’s Word
 - * Expository in style
 - * Equipping on purpose
 - * Essential to worship
2. Through teaching
 - * Appeals to the intellect
 - * Accurate representation of Bible doctrine
 - * Applicable to life

Prayer – Conversive fellowship with the Lord

1. For the church
 - * For individual needs among the congregation (private or public)
 - * For corporate needs of the congregation
 - * For missional needs of the congregation
2. On behalf of the church
 - * For the witness of the church
 - * For the protection of the church
 - * For the opportunities of the church