

With Much Advantage Conference

Samuel J. McLure

- Christ established a particular organizational government with the early church.
- Parallel's to this government are rooted in the formation of Temple Worship in the post-Exodus community.
- The Sons of Aaron, as a correlation to the Office of Elder, were alone ordained to handle the most-holy things, or the Means of Grace. The rest of the Sons of Levi, as a correlation to the Office of Deacon, were ordained to manage all other affairs related to orchestration of corporate worship.
- Similarly, the early Church followed this same pattern. The Elders were to focus on the Word and Prayer, and Deacons who to manage all other affairs of the Church.
- If the Church is to grow, we must have Elders who devote themselves to the Word and Prayer, guarding their time, talents, and resources vigilantly.
- We must also have Deacons, who are zealous for good works: zealous for taking everything off of the Elders plate which may distract them from Word and Prayer.
- *The BCO*, 7-2, articulates a large domain for the Office of Deacon: “The office of deacon is not one of rule, but rather of service both to the physical and **spiritual needs** of the people.” The Mission of Gospel Proclamation requires men to step up to this high calling.

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In the April 1859 edition of the *Southern Presbyterian Review*, in an article focused on recovering the Office of the Deacon, Rev. JB Ramsay comments:

*“[A] tree or an animal may, in its growth, be so **obstructed** in its development as to produce serious **deformity**, which may afterwards greatly **interfere** with the vigorous working of its life.”*

Focused on revitalizing the Office of Deacon, these were timely words penned on the eve of the 1861 American War, and they are timely words today.

An Arabian racehorse, whose deliberate breeding for endurance races, stretches back some 5 millennium, will lose every race it ever runs if its “growth is so obstructed”, if it is left cramped in its stall, if its hooves are not properly maintained, and if its nutrition is inadequate.

One of our family’s favorite activities is building Lego towers. And, as every Master-Builder will tell you, the stability of the tower’s foundation will determine the height of the tower, and its durability against 2-year old terrorists.

Christ the King, the Redeemer of all Creation, to whom even the pagan nations looked with anticipation to come from the Jewish people, established His Church with very precise polity - the exercise regimen for the Arabian Race Horse - the Master-Builder’s design for the Lego Tower’s foundation.

The Office of Elder and Deacon - dispensing the Means of Grace and managing all affairs attendant to the Means of Grace - these two functions have always existed in Christ’s church. The extent to which the Church adheres to the polity of the King, will, in large degree, determine the efficacy of the Church.

Our church constitution articulates the role of the Deacon in this way:

*The office of deacon is not one of rule, but rather of service both to the physical and **spiritual needs** of the people.*

This is, in short, far more than unlocking doors, counting the tithe, and changing lightbulbs. The Elders are called to labor zealously in the Word and in Prayer. To do that, there must be an equally zealous Diaconate serving “the physical and spiritual needs of the people.”

Rev. JB Ramsay, leaves us with these thoughts from two-centuries past:

*“The fact is, that where there are no deacons, and their duties are left to the session, they are, in almost all cases, scarcely performed at all. **This whole function of the church lies paralyzed.**”*

It is for this purpose we are hosting the 2nd *With Much Advantage* Conference on October, 22, 2022 - for recovering the dignity of the Office of Deacon, for inspiring men to reach for the high calling of this Office, that the Gates of Hell may not prevail against Christ’s church - that Arabian race horse may run with the speed of its breeding, and the Lego Tower may withstand the fury of a 2-year old terrorists.