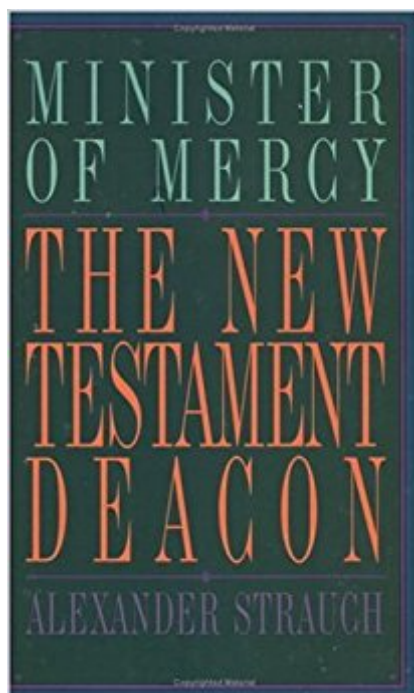


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# The New Testament Deacon: The Church's Minister Of Mercy



## Synopsis

Our heartfelt burden is to help deacons get out of the boardroom and building-maintenance mentality and into the people-serving mentality. Deacons, as the New testament teaches and as some of the sixteenth-century reformers discovered, are to be involved in a compassionate ministry of caring for the poor and needy. The deacons' ministry, therefore, is one that no Christ-centered, New Testament church can afford to neglect. It's through the deacons' ministry that we make Christ's love a reality for many people. A ground-breaking study of all the biblical texts on the subject, *The New Testament Deacon: Minister of Mercy* will help you build a strong ministry in your church. This book and its companion work *The New Testament Deacon Study Guide*, are widely used materials for training and equipping deacons.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The man who gifted the church with his work, *Biblical Eldership* delivers an equally impressive volume - *Minister of Mercy*. The former title dealt with the office DEACON of elder; the latter deals with the office of deacon. Part One - *Dividing Up the Work: Word and Deed* The first section focuses on the necessity of dividing the work between elders and deacons. Generally, elders minister in Word through a solid biblical teaching ministry. Deacons on the other hand, minister in deed and offer assistance to needy and hurting people in the body of Christ. Specifically, the job description of the deacon is surveyed. Part Two - *A Two-Office Church: Overseers and Deacons* Part two may be the most crucial part of the book. The author clears up the misunderstanding that is typically

associated with the office of overseer (elder) and the office of deacon. A clear distinction is drawn between these two important New Testament offices. Part Three - The Qualifications for Deacons As such, the qualifications for the office of deacon are explained with exegetical precision. Additionally, the deacon must be examined publically by the overseers and the congregation. Finally, the qualifications for wives who assist their husbands is clearly articulated. Part Four - The Importance of Deacons in the Church The author alerts readers to the importance of this office by directing their attention to 1 Timothy 3:13, "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus." In other words, the office of deacon serves as a place of influence and high honor in the local church. Strauch adds, "Do not underestimate the potential influence the diaconate can have on the local church ... Although deacons do not teach or govern the congregation, they can be spiritual giants who exercise bold faith."

Strauch does a great job with the passages on Deacons. His interpretation is that the Acts 6 servants in the church at Jerusalem were a prototype for the New Testament deacon. This book has been instrumental in giving Biblical clarity on the Scriptural description and the purpose of the office of Deacon. We have used it with our existing deacons and we are also using it to train some new candidates for deacon.

The book is a faithful investigation on what a diaconate should be, based upon Scripture and not just opinions of men. It gave me some great insight and encouragement. I highly recommend it to any interested in the subject and especially those serving as deacons or elders in a church.

This is not a handbook. It's an explanation of why deacons were chosen by the elders in the NT to minister food and money to widows. Rather than being sextons (building maintenance personnel), they are to be ministers of mercy. Rather than having their own authority over all church finances, they are to operate under the direction of the elders, administering benevolences to those in need. Rather than being excluded from teaching, as if the office of Teacher and the gift of teaching were the same, they are to instruct and to uphold church doctrine. There are some dry sections, especially those dealing with Greek meanings. And so the audience for this book is as much the elders of the church, as the deacons. Both are involved in a cooperative enterprise in which the primary but not exclusive focus of the elders, is the church's vertical relationship with God ("Love the Lord your God..."); and the primary but not exclusive focus of the deacons, is the church's horizontal

relationship among the saints ("Love your neighbor..."). This is the best I've seen on getting across what deacons are and are not. The section on deaconesses may cause some to balk, but it's well-done even if you come to a different conclusion.

A very engaging, and unflinching exposition of an important and often controversial text and topic. What is the origin of the NT diaconate? Of what does the diaconate consist? What are the Scriptural qualifications of the NT deacon? Alexander Strauch is irenic and helpful as he answers these questions and many more while unfolding the relevant texts with skill, accuracy, and maturity. Highly recommended.

A great overview for the role of Deacon.

As a church plant, Strauch's book on Elders was invaluable for us as we instituted our first Elder Board. This year his book on Deacons has also been essential as we began our process of implementing deacons! Highly recommend!

This book has an excellent beginning but then it becomes redundant at several points. It also contains some good resources for training new experienced deacons. The author seems to have written in phases and those phrases are not very coherent.

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