The Backbone of the Church

Ken Chapman · Matthew 20:26

INTRODUCTION

- But whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. That's something that so many times we just don't get.
- You probably know as well that the word deacon really just means a servant.
- These deacons, these servants, are great among us because they are in so many ways the backbone of the church.

1 God Put Some Order in the Local Church

Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:21–23; Titus 1:5

- We're more than just participants and more than just an audience and more than just people who sit in proximity to one another.
- Paul and Timothy, bond servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi with the bishops and deacons.
- So when they had appointed elders in every church, they prayed with fasting.
- For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.

2 Deacons Are a Vital Part of That

Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:8–13

- Deacons are the backbone of the church. They're the unsung heroes of the kingdom.
- Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
- Let's appoint these men who can take care of that needful thing, so that we can do this other needful thing.
- The word of God spread, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.
- This work is so important that we need specific men to do this, and not just specific men, but certain type of men.
- Deacons must be reverent, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

3 What Can We All Do to Help?

Philippians 2:14; 1 Corinthians 10:10; Romans 16:1

- Number one is don't be so quick to criticize.
- Philippians 2 and in verse 14, he says, do all things without complaining and disputing.

- Nor complain. As some of them also complained. And were destroyed by the destroyer.
- Find out what those are and go to that deacon and say, Can I help you with that?
- Thirdly, rather than being so quick to criticize, commend them for their work.
- Let's learn from them. Let's learn to have that servant's heart, of being the first to say, here I am, let me serve.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Would you obey the gospel this morning? Would you serve Christ in his kingdom this morning?**

MY NOTES