

"THE FIRST DEACONS"

ACTS 6:5-7

I. THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS CHOICE WAS MADE

A. Three Different Types Of Polity Have Emerged In Church History

1. The Episcopal System (Government By Bishops)
2. The Presbyterian System (Government By Elders)
3. The Congregational System (Government By Autonomous Democracy)

B. The Congregation Itself, Chose Its Own Leadership

1. It Also Is Responsible For The Maintenance Of Sound Doctrine
2. It Also Is Responsible To Police Itself

II. THE QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO SECURE A NOMINATION

A. From This Text And Its Immediate Context

B. From Pauline Texts (I Timothy 3)

1. Dignified (3:8)
2. Not Two Faced (3:8)
3. Not Given To Excess (3:8)
4. Not Covetous Of Dishonest Gain (3:8)
5. Possessor Of A Pure Conscience (3:9)
6. Tested & Found To Be Beyond Question (3:10)
7. Marriage & Family Qualifications [If Applicable] (3:11-12)

III. THE RESULTS OF THIS APPROACH TO THE NEED

A. Thoughts On The Listing Of Names (6:5)

B. A Symbolic Transference Of Ministry (6:6)

C. Three Undeniable Facts (6:7)