

DIAKONOS - *Deacon*

"deacon" (TECHNICAL USE)	"servant" (NON-TECHNICAL USE)	"minister" (NON-TECHNICAL USE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE in the church (I Timothy 3:8, 12; Philippians 1:1). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King's SERVANTS (<i>deacons</i>) in parable (Matthew 22:13). Household SERVANTS (<i>deacons</i>) at wedding feast (John 2:5, 9). Any man SERVANT (<i>deacon</i>) of Christ (John 12:26). Greatest to be SERVANT (<i>deacon</i>) of all (Matthew 23:11). Phebe SERVANT (feminine of <i>deacon</i>) (Romans 16:1). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Great" among disciples to be MINISTER (<i>deacon</i>) (Matthew 20:26). Officers of government called MINISTERS (<i>deacons</i>) (Romans 13:4). Jesus himself called MINISTER (<i>deacon</i>) (Romans 15:8; Galatians 2:17). Apostle called MINISTER (<i>deacon</i>) (Ephesians 3:7). Preachers called MINISTERS (<i>deacons</i>) (I Corinthians 3:5; Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 1:7; 4:7; I Thessalonians 3:2; I Timothy 4:6). False teachers called Satan's MINISTERS (<i>deacons</i>) (II Corinthians 11:15).



● By James E. Gibbons

THE WORD **diakonos** is rendered "deacon" in the King James Version of the Bible, having reference to an office in the church. What a lot of people don't know is that the same word is also translated "servant" and "minister." It is apparent that the translators used the word "deacon" to represent the Greek **diakonos** when the word was used in a technical sense, referring to an office in the church. In the other references when **diakonos** is used in a general sense, they simply represent it with "servant" or "minister." This little chart or diagram will illustrate this (a sampling).

Today in the religious world the term "MINISTER" is used in a special or technical sense. It is used as the name for an office (position) in the church. In particular, the person who is usually thought of as preacher is called "THE MINISTER" of the church. This practice is almost universal and is even common among those who claim to speak where the Bible speaks and who claim to call Bible things by Bible names. Recently we saw certificates advertized which were to be given when men were ordained to the office of "MINISTER" (that's what they called it).

In the light of what we know about the Bible (notice chart), this is confusing, and it brings several questions to mind. Using the term in a technical or official sense is inappropriate, unless it has reference to the "deacon" in the local church. To compound the confusion many churches who have "MINISTERS" also have deacons. Then if we profess to be using the term "minister" in a general sense when we speak of a preacher as "THE MINISTER" of the church, it is still inappropriate. The New Testament teaches the priesthood of believers, and every Christian is a minister in the general, non-technical sense. No one is "THE MINISTER."

Therefore, we conclude that the modern office of "THE MINISTER" is an unscriptural position not taught in the Word of God. In view of what we read in God's Word, the modern MINISTER is an EVANGELIST-ELDER-MEMBER hybrid (and some more). Too manytimes he is doing the job of a defunct eldership and an inactive membership (and he and they love to have it so). He is "paid" to do the job God intended others to do. If he is a preacher, he is supposed to be a New Testament evangelist—and that's another story.

These thoughts may be totally new to some of our readers, but they are the truth. *Think on them.* □