## INTRODUCTION

To the faithful and the called

Before we begin,

WHAT IS A DEACON? Unveiling the Heart of the Calling



1. The Greek Definition: More Than a Helper

The English word "Deacon" comes directly from the Greek word: Διάκονος (pronounced: dee-ah-kon-os)

While this word is often translated simply as "servant" or "minister," its root meaning is far more powerful and specific.

It doesn't just refer to a general helper (that would be the Greek word doulos). Instead, Διάκονος implies:

A trusted attendant A designated messenger One who executes the commands of another

In ancient times, a diakonos was not a lowly slave but a respected intermediary who acted with the authority of the person they served. They were a conduit of will and provision.

2. The Spiritual Definition: Identity in Action

Spiritually, this transforms the role from a task into a sacred trust.

## A Deacon is:

Heaven's Distributor: They are entrusted to distribute God's grace, mercy, and practical provision to the body of Christ. They are the hands that deliver God's goodness.

A Representative of Christ's Heart: Jesus defined His own mission through this word:

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve [diakonēsai]" (Mark 10:45). When you serve as a deacon, you are quite literally enacting the ministry of Jesus on earth.

A Catalyst for Unity: When the first deacons were appointed in Acts 6, their

service (diakonia) solved a crisis of neglect and allowed the Word of God to spread "and the number of disciples multiplied greatly" (Acts 6:7). Their practical service unlocked spiritual multiplication.

## 3. The Concise Definition:

A Deacon is a Spirit-appointed, servant-hearted leader  $\bigcirc$  who is trusted with executing the practical ministry of the church, acting as a conduit of God's love and provision to His people, thereby freeing the church to worship in unity and advancing the Gospel through tangible acts of service.

In a nutshell: Your service is your ministry. Your ministry is your message.

This is the weight and the wonder of the calling. It is a high and holy charge. Now, with this understanding cemented in our hearts, we are ready to explore what this looks like in practice.

This course wasn't written from a place of theory—it was written from the fire of experience. I've walked the path you're now considering, and it's my passion to help you walk it boldly and effectively.

Birthed out of the vision of SFGM Boston | The House of Restoration Ministries (HRM), this journey is built on three pillars:







This isn't about joining a committee. This is a sacred summons to step into a higher level of commitment within the body of Christ. It's about your character being refined in the fires of obedience on long before any title is ever placed on you.

I've been through the battles—the spiritual attacks, the setbacks, the breakthroughs. And I've learned this: God's call is irrevocable, and His grace is more than enough for every step—and every stumble.

My prayer is that this course doesn't just inform you—it activates you. May it stir up the gift inside you  $\mathcal{L}$ , equip you for real ministry, and remind you that you're not alone. We're in this together.

This is more than a manual. This is your call to arms.  $\times$ 

Let's begin in Jesus' name.