

# A Biblical Theology of Deacons

---

## IV: Use of *diakoneō*, *diakonos*, & *diakonia* in Greek

MEFC Oct 03 & 10, 2021

### Greek word family:

- *diakoneō* ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
  
- *diakonos* ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
  
- *diakonia* ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
  
- Origin of use:
  
- General meaning = \_\_\_\_\_

### Semantic Range and Domain

- Clarence D. Agan III “examined 770 uses of the word group from secular, Jewish, and Christian sources dating from the sixth century BC to the early third century AD. To date, Agan’s study is the most comprehensive and examines the largest number of occurrences of the diakon- word group. [Strauch, 53]”
  
- Four different semantic uses in Greek:
  1. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”-deacons
  2. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”-deacons
  3. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”-deacons
  4. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”-deacons
  
- What use did Paul have in mind in 1 Timothy 3 and Philippians 1:1?

**(1) “Table”-deacons**

Agan, 99 “the terms denote the preparation and service of food or drink, including related activities such as washing dishes, preparing lamps, mixing wine, and preparing libations. ”

translations: \_\_\_\_\_

• Biblical texts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• Christian application to the “Office of Deacons”

• Implications for MEFC

• Questions for 1 Timothy 3 and Philippians 1:1?

**(2) “Domestic”-deacons**

Agan, 99 “the terms embrace a wide variety of domestic activities, ranging from personal attendance on the bodily needs of a master to the routine discharge of household duties.”

translations: \_\_\_\_\_

- Biblical texts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Christian application to the “Office of Deacons”

- Implications for MEFC

- Questions for 1 Timothy 3 and Philippians 1:1?

**(3) “Messenger”-deacons**

Agan, 100 “the semantic domain of communication and delivery, where they designate the conveyance of a message (or, less frequently, an object) from one party, by a second, to a third.”

translations: \_\_\_\_\_

- Biblical texts: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Christian application to the “Office of Deacons”

- Implications for MEFC

- Questions for 1 Timothy 3 and Philippians 1:1?

**(4) “Agent”-deacons.**

Agan, 101-02 “Finally, diakoneō; and its cognates function in a fourth field...we may describe in terms of agency and instrumentality. Like those surveyed above, this use involves the notion of intermediary activity... Yet in this final semantic domain our terms are at their most abstract, designating simply the effecting of another's will by an agent (if personal) or instrument (if impersonal), without reference to food and drink, to household duties, or to messages or objects to be delivered.”

translations: \_\_\_\_\_

- Biblical texts: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Christian application to the “Office of Deacons”
  
- Implications for MEFC
  
- Questions for 1 Timothy 3 and Philippians 1:1?