

I. Early Baptist Deacons

A. Served as ch. officers.

assisted in limited admin. functions,
cared for the treasury
and the Lord's table

" " minister's needs

" " poor & sick

B. They were responsible to the church

C. In America in the latter half of 18th cent. deacons became caretakers of the church's temporal or secular affairs as never before.

In other words, Deacons became
much more involved in admin.,
managerial, & business duties.

Possible reasons why this happened:

1. Churches became more numerous,
& many pastors served more
than one church & ~~could~~ had
only limited time for admin-
work in ea. church.

2. Committee structures were not
as developed as they are today.

3. The anti-clerical movement
in the church paralleled
the anti-monarchy movement
in politics during this
period.

II. Modern Baptist Deacons

A. The 19th cent.

By 1850 ~~the~~ many prominent Baptists became alarmed at the trend for deacons to become the church business managers, acting as an executive board for all temporal & secular affairs.

B. Many Bap. leaders wrote about the danger in the tendency for deacons to act "as a sort of ruling presbytery."

C. By the end of the 1880s & turn of the century there were three two opposing views.

D. The 20th cent. The reaction continued to the managerial view, led by such men as W. T. Comer and Haines Dobline.

The Model of Semant-Lose proposed.

E. Since 1950 S.B.C. strongly emphasized concept of Semant-Lose and the Dacons Family Ministry Plan.

III. Lessons from Deacon History

- A. Deacons exist to serve God and the church.
- B. a wise church will guard carefully against the possibility of deacon decline.
- C. Churches look to their deacons for leadership.
- D. Compassionate deacons minister in particular to their pastor as well as to other church members.

Frank Shepherd
in St. Catharines Hosp

Bob Twitty

~~back~~
back in hosp.

Someone in Ashville Hosp.

Ella Jarvis -

Mrs. Sherman

Cheryl Quinn

52 Ch. tag. class - Angeles BC. May 31, '87