

Session 3
**A Deacon Ministry That Works Is
Effective & Continuous**

Individual Teaching Guide:

1. The two questions most asked in deacon seminars are...
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

2. The growth and health of Dr. Pederson's church, Oak Cliff Baptist, is attributed to what?

3. Most people believe ministry is...
 - ___ A. The responsibility of the Pastor
 - ___ B. What takes place on Sunday mornings
 - ___ C. What happens within the walls of the church
 - ___ D. All of the above

4. The New Testament pattern of ministry is...
 - ___ A. the Pastor does all ministry
 - ___ B. All members are to be ministers
 - ___ C. Deacons are to assist the Pastor in doing all ministry

5. Major hurdles in New Testament ministry are...
 - A. Pastor must _____ ministry.
 - B. Deacons must _____ ministry.
 - C. Congregation must _____ ministry.

Group Learning Guide:

1. Eric Moore is deacon at East Hills Baptist Church. He is having lunch with Frank Harper, another layman who is active in the Lutheran church. East Hills has just completed a very large Worship Center which has been the talk of the community.
Over lunch, Frank casually mentions to Eric, "You have a beautiful new facility. You must must have a large congregation. How many ministers do you have?"
Eric smiles. "We have about 950 ministers."
Frank is puzzled. "What? I don't mean attendance. I mean ministers."
"That's what I mean too," asserts Eric.

What does Eric mean? How might he explain his answer to Frank?

2. How does a misunderstanding of ministry limit...

A. The Pastor and staff?

B. The congregation?

3. From the list of ministry actions below, identify by checking those that your Pastor could release, those that Deacons could assume, and those that would be accepted by the congregation if performed by someone other than the Pastor.

Ministry Actions	Pastor could release	Deacons could assume	Congregation would accept
A. evangelism & outreach			
B. orienting new church members			
C. marriage counseling			
D. visiting the homebound			
E. jail/prison ministry			
F. crisis counseling			
G. decision counseling			
H. leading worship			
I. Bible teaching			
J. visiting the sick			
K. developing leaders			
L. conducting stewardship emphasis			

4. Sometimes Deacons cannot be effective ministers because they are over-extended. They have too many church-related responsibilities.

How many responsibilities do you have in your church?

- Sunday School Leader
Area(s): _____
- Usher
- Choir Member
- Committee/Council Member
Name(s): _____
- Outreach Team Member
- Ministry Team Member
Area(s): _____
- Other _____

What actions would need to be taken away to reduce the workload of the Deacon to release him for effective and continuous ministry?

5. Read the following statements that reflect some perceptions churches have about ministry. Circle the number that reflects your opinion. 1 = untrue of your church, 5 = totally true of your church.

- A. The Pastor is the shepherd and the final authority. 1 2 3 4 5
- B. Deacons are more valid ministers than other church members. 1 2 3 4 5
- C. Our members recognize the office of Deacon as a primary ministering position. 1 2 3 4 5
- D. Most of our people would welcome a deacon visit in lieu of a pastoral visit. 1 2 3 4 5
- E. The Pastor recognizes the office of Deacon as a ministering position. 1 2 3 4 5
- F. All else being equal, most of our people would be as open to sharing ministry needs with a Deacon as they would with a Pastor. 1 2 3 4 5
- G. Even though our people are very pastor-oriented, they would be open to beginning to accept deacons as ministers. 1 2 3 4 5

6. Widow Ophelia Jones, one of the senior adults of Northside Baptist Church, was visited recently by deacon Henry Smith. Henry inquired about her health. He took time to repair a few items around the house. When he prepared to leave, he had prayer with her.

Soon afterward Bill Myers, chairman of deacons, was told by Mrs. Jones that she was being neglected by the ministers of the church. Bill knew that Henry had been to Mrs. Jones' home because a report had been given at the last deacon's meeting.

If you were Bill Myers, how would you respond to Mrs. Jones' comments? _____

***The church that is going to
understand ministry basically
as the Pastor and Deacons
understand it.***