

## DEACONS

Reference: **Acts 6:1-7** (page 970)

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The book of Acts is the historical account of how the first church began at Jerusalem, and then how that church multiplied into other congregations and expanded into other geographical regions. This section from chapter 6 is basically a progress report on the beginning stages of the church's development.

There are three basic techniques Satan uses in his resistance to the church:

One... \_\_\_\_\_ from outside the church

Reference: **Acts 4:1-31 and 5:17-41**

Two... \_\_\_\_\_ from inside the church

Reference: **Acts 5:1-11**

Three... \_\_\_\_\_ from inside the church

Reference: **Acts 6:1-7**

This third technique is the particular modus operandi Satan used against the Jerusalem church.

The Hellenists were Hellenistic (i.e. Grecian) Jewish people from outside Jerusalem and had been raised in and had adopted the \_\_\_\_\_ culture. The Hellenistic Jewish Christians represented just a small percentage of the total Jerusalem congregation but there was some concern because their widows weren't being cared for.

The word "deacon" is translated from the Greek word "*diakonos*" and meant "*servant or attendant or \_\_\_\_\_*"

One common speculation as to the etymology of the word is literally "*through the \_\_\_\_\_*".

But notice the beginning criteria a deacon must meet is mentioned in **verse three**:

- deacons are to be \_\_\_\_\_  
"*...seven men*"
- deacons are selected from \_\_\_\_\_ the church  
"*...seek out from among you seven men*"
- deacons are to have \_\_\_\_\_  
"*...men of good reputation*"
- deacons are to be \_\_\_\_\_  
"*...full of the Holy Spirit*"
- deacons are to have spiritual \_\_\_\_\_  
"*...full of... wisdom*"

Footnote: a more complete list of deacon requirements is found in **I Timothy 3:8-13**