

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
The Acts of the Apostles Series: Chapter 6
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Keywords: Lead Servants

I. Problems in the Church.

1. Church Problems give us opportunity to **examine** our **ministries** for changes needed.

***Acts 6:1-2** And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

2. Church Problems give **leaders** the opportunity to be **accountable**.

***Acts 6:2-7** Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

3. Church problems give us opportunity to **exercise** our **faith**.

A. Faith in **Jesus**, our Lord.

B. Faith in each **other**.

***Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

The early church was not afraid to adjust their **structure** in order to make room for a **growing** ministry.

The Apostles were not afraid to share their **authority** and ministry with others.

***Acts 6:3-4** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

Distracted Pastors create a "**spiritual** deficiency" in the church that makes it **easier** for problems to develop.

4. Church Problems give us opportunity to **express** our **love**.

Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

Solving church problems requires that we are **considerate** of others and not just of ourselves.

5. Church Problems give us opportunity to **show** our **unity**.

Acts 6:5-6 *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.*

SOLVING Church Problems gives opportunity for more healthy church growth!

Acts 6:7 *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Other churches and pastors can learn from our unity as we work through church problems.

II. Deacons in the Church

A. Where did the name deacon come from?

Acts 6:1 *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.*

1. Noun diakonia. (diyako-kneeya) Means **service**...meeting their daily needs.

Acts 6:2 *Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

2. Verb diakoneō (diyako-NAYoh). Action or act of **serving** daily needs.

Philippians 1:1 *Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:*

3. Diakonos –the noun and verb together is a person who serves. **Servant**

1 Timothy 13 *For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

A person that stirs up problems is by his very nature NOT a deacon.

Deacon Definition – an appointed servant of charity. Deacons are responsible to make the Christian claims of love a reality!

B. Qualifications of a deacon

Acts 6:3-4 Wherefore, brethren,...

- 1) Must be an active part of the church... look ye out among you seven men
- 2) Must have a reputation of honesty...of honest report,
- 3) Must be Spirit-filled...full of the Holy Ghost
- 4) Must demonstrate and exercise wise decisions and counsel...and wisdom,
- 5) Must be capable to execute assignments...whom we may appoint over this business.
- 6) Must protect the pastor's time...4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:3-4 tells us the qualifications, 1 Timothy 3:8-13 teach us the characteristics.

C. Characteristics of a deacon

1 Timothy 3:8-13 Likewise must the deacons be

- 1) grave, afforded/given a great deal of respect because of their wisdom and character.
- 2) not doubletongued, not two-faced. No hypocrites. Not genuine. not a gossip.
- 3) not given to much wine, not addicted to alcohol or controlled substances.
- 4) not greedy of filthy lucre; not selfish, money hungry, or gaining anything dishonestly.
- 5) **1 Timothy 3:9** *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*
Understands our doctrines and faith.
- 6) **1 Timothy 3:10** And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Proven!

Becoming a deacon will not **change** a man to give him these characteristics. A man must **possess** these qualities to become a deacon.

7) Deacon must be competent and able to manage and take care of his own **household** and responsibilities before trusting him with more!

Luke 16:10-12 *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*

1 Timothy 3:11-12 *Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*

Remember Deacons are the response of a unified church solving problems!

Next Week: Read Acts Chapter 8:5-40