

CHURCH LEADERSHIP ESTABLISHED AND SOLVING CONFLICT

(Acts 6:1-7)

I. THE INFANCY AND THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)

A. A Problem Arises that has the Potential to be Very Divisive in the Church (6:1)

1. There was a complaint that originated within the church from the _____ against the _____. (v. 1a)
2. The complaint in the church was that the _____ were being _____ in the daily distribution of food. (v. 1b)

* Does church growth bring with it its own problems?

B. The Apostles Appoint the First Deacons in A Local Church (6:2-7)

1. The Twelve Apostles recognized their _____ in teaching the Word of God (v. 2) and prayer (v. 4); thus they needed to _____ lesser responsibilities to others.
2. Their solution was to appoint seven deacons who met certain qualifications (v. 3) ...
 - a. chosen from _____, from this assembly
 - b. seven _____
 - c. with a _____ among the congregation
 - d. full of the Holy Spirit; they are _____
 - e. full of _____, they are capable of handling these things

3. The apostles wisely held to their God-given priorities of _____ and _____ . (v. 4)

4. The idea of appointing seven men as deacons _____ the whole _____ ; and so, they made their selection, and the apostles prayed and laid hands on them. (vv. 5-6)

5. The results of the spiritual leadership maintaining its priorities and wisely addressing this functional problem via deacons was the _____ of the Word of God and many more people getting _____. (v. 7)

C. The Structure of the Local Church

1. There are the _____ that feed and lead God's flock under Christ's Headship and Word.

2. There are the _____ that serve various needs of the congregation under the elders.

- * What does the term "*deacon*" mean?
 - The term "*deacon*" [*diakonos*] means _____. It is used _____ of anyone who serves (1 Cor.3:5; 2 Cor.3:6; Ephesians 6:21; Rom.16:1), or _____ of designated believers who function in the office of a deacon (1 Tim.3:8-13).

 - Within the structure of a local church, there are deacons who are designated believers who serve the Lord under the authority and direction of the _____, yet they do so to the benefit and blessing of the _____.

3. There are the spiritually gifted _____ that are to be equipped for their work of ministry.

* What can you personally learn and apply from all of this?