

“We Impact The World Through Multiplication”

Acts 6:1-7

Sermon Series: “Who We Are”

1. The Background:

A. These men and women met the resurrected Christ and He changed their lives.

B. Jesus created His church, the community of the redeemed, and these Christ followers did life together as the church.

C. Jesus gave them the mission of making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

D. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, who empowered them to fulfill their mission (Acts 1:8).

E. Jesus blessed the early church with supernatural growth through the power of the Spirit.

F. God’s design is that the church is to be edified and multiplied (Acts 9:31).

G. But, as we will see in today’s text, growth brings problems.

2. The Problem: Some of the widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food (v. 1). This had the potential to really divide the church because it threatened its unity. It was compounded by the fact that the widows with a Greek cultural background were being neglected while those of the Hebrew culture were being taken care of. Every church has shortcomings. They were having difficulty keeping up with the growth. Problems must be solved and unity must be maintained. **However, just complaining is not enough.** Followers complain, but leaders look for solutions. It is important we see that there was a deeper issue, a root problem. **How do you reach a lot of people and take care of those people at the same time? It was a seeming clashing of priorities, although God’s will doesn't really clash with itself.**

3. The Priorities:

A. Making disciples of all the nations

B. Loving and caring for the disciples

C. Maintaining unity

4. The Solution To The Problem: The solution is for the pastors to stay focused on prayer and the ministry of the Word of God while simultaneously leading the church in multiplying leaders, engaging all the members in ministering to each other, and everyone proclaiming the gospel to non-believers. All of the church’s God-given priorities can be accomplished by following this pattern, as is evidenced by the results. We see in this text that some of the requirements for being in spiritual leadership

are a good reputation among the other believers (which speaks of a deserved reputation that comes from integrity), being filled with the Spirit, wisdom, and the capability to handle the tasks involved in the ministry.

5. The Results Of Solving The Problem:

A. Many more disciples were made

B. The church stayed united

C. The needs of the people were properly met

D. The gospel spread resulting in salvation and the planting of churches

(Acts 8:1-8, 26-38; 11:19-26; 13:1-3)

Then, the leaders of this new church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, sent Paul and Barnabas out on the 1st Missionary Journey where they proclaimed the gospel, disciplined the converts, established leaders, and ultimately, planted churches in cities including Lystra, Iconium, Antioch (14:21-23), Galatia (16:6), Philippi (16:6), Thessalonica (17:1-4), Corinth (18:1-11), and Ephesus (19:1-10).

Core Value: We impact the world through multiplication. We train the next generation, equip pastors and missionaries, and plant churches in the United States and the world.