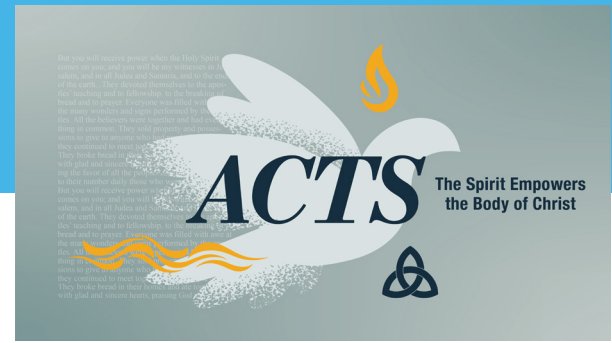


Discussion Questions

July 7, 2024

Acts 6:1-7 Empowered to Serve One Another



1. Discuss how you see the issue of division in the early church reflected in today's churches?

What are some common causes of division you have observed?

2. Read Acts 6:1-7

Summarize the passage in your own words.

How did they address the conflict in the church?

3. The early church fought for unity and made great efforts to keep even those who hated one another continue to gather together as a body and grow in serving and loving one another. Give some practical examples of what that would look like if the body of Christ had the same values today.

4. In verse 3, the apostles break down the sacred/secular Dualistic divide when they say they must choose seven people who are known for being "filled with the Spirit" to oversee the very practical task of distributing food to the widows.

In what ways do Christians today live out of a sacred/secular dualistic mindset?

What are some implications of that faulty worldview?

What does it look like to be "Spirit filled" in seemingly "non-Spiritual" tasks?

5. Yet again we have seen another example of the failures of the early church being on full transparent display.

Why do you think the Bible details so many of the sins, doubts, failures, and mistakes?

What does it look like for us to live out that value today as followers of Jesus?

6. The apostles did not attempt to be the answer to every problem, but they empowered the body of the church to serve and care for one another and delegated roles to people in the body.

In a mid-sized modern church of today like Northview, how should we practically carry out this value?

Acts 6:1–7 (NIV)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Eugene Peterson - The Contemplative Pastor

The adjective busy set as a modifier to pastor should sound to our ears like adulterous to characterize a wife, or embezzling to describe a banker. It is an outrageous scandal, a blasphemous affront.

Takeaways for Application

- 1. God values honesty & vulnerability**
- 2. We must fight for unity**
- 3. The Body of Christ must care for the Body of Christ**