

# Never the Same

Acts 6:1-7

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The early church has much to teach us about what it means to be the body of Christ.

## Recap (Acts 1-5)

- Church's Mission: Witness
- Church's Message: The Gospel
- Church's Power: The Holy Spirit
- Church's Movers: The Apostles
- Church's Leaders: Peter

Acts 6:1-7 shows us how The Church Diversifies

### **1. The Dispute**

The passage opens with a problem: The church had become very large and a complaint from the Hellenists against the Hebrews arose (v. 1). While both the Hellenists and Hebrews were ethnically Jews, there were cultural differences that separated them (spoken language and nativity to Jerusalem). Hellenist widows were somehow neglected in the daily distribution; they wondered if the church was truly worshiping the God of the Bible (Ps. 68:5, James 1:27a). The 12 apostles chose to address the issue by gathering the entire church (v. 2a). When in the face of dispute, the Diverse Church cries: "All for One!" The Church must flourish despite diversity. The diverse church must be a united church.

### **2. The Delegation**

The apostles addressed the whole church by distinguishing their role as apostles in teaching and preaching the Word (v. 2b). It would not be right for them to neglect it by overseeing the daily distribution. Doing both was too much for them. Jethro recognised this (Ex. 18:17) and

advised Moses to delegate. Similarly, the apostles took decisive action to delegate (v. 3). They recognised that they were not the ones to fix the issue and gave a framework for the church to choose seven men of good reputation, spiritual and wise, to be commissioned to address the issue (vv. 5-6). The church is meant to be dynamic and flexible. In times of Decision, the Dynamic Church cries: "All hands on deck!" The living dynamic body of Christ, the Church, must all come together!

### **3. The Dividends**

The result of the effective delegation to deal with the dispute saw a multi-faceted flourishing in the church and beyond (v. 7). The way the church lived counter-culturally that displayed an unparalleled level of love and unity, brought many priests to the faith. In light of a Disillusioned culture, the Disarming Church cries: "All Glory to God!"

## Application:

- a. Value the Sunday gatherings & church life
- b. Voice your concerns to your leaders
- c. Vouch for Christian unity
- d. Venture out to bring non-Christians in

Acts 6:1, 2 – The core identity of the church as a whole and every member of the church is to be a disciple of Jesus. Above all else, there must be an uncompromising loyalty to our Master and Saviour Jesus. This is now possible because Christ has reconciled us in a new body (Eph. 2:14-16).