

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“HOW TO AVOID A CHURCH FIGHT”

ACTS 6:1-7

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NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Introduction: As our nation continues to be increasingly polarized, church splits – and even lawsuits – seem to be happening more frequently among believers. Today, we are going to examine the first disagreement in the history of the church and how the members responded to it.

I. The Internal Problem Explained (Acts 6:1)

Acts 6:1 “Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.”

II. The Solution Proposed (Acts 6:2-4)

Acts 6:2-3 ² “So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.’”

Acts 6:4 “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

The Two Offices in the Church Today (Philippians 1:1)

1. **“Pastor”** (also called the “overseer,” “elder,” or “shepherd”) (1 Peter 5:1-4)
2. **“Deacon”** (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

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1 Peter 5:1-4 ¹ “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight and not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

III. The Decision Approved And Enacted (Acts 6:5-6)

Acts 6:5 “The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.”

Acts 6:6 “And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.”

IV. The Church Is Blessed (Acts 6:7)

Acts 6:7 “The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.”

V. Timeless Essentials For Keeping Peace In The Church

A. Responsibility in the Church Should Be Divided (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹ “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”

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B. Every Christian Should Utilize His Gift in the Local Church (1 Peter 4:10)

1 Peter 4:10 “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

C. A Unified Church Is a Powerful Witness to Unbelievers (1 Corinthians 12:27)

1 Corinthians 12:27 “You are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”

John 13:35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Conclusion