

**The Book of Acts - Chapter 6.1-7**  
**NOTHING STAYS THE SAME!**  
**Dr. Larry Lamb – August 11, 2019**

**Acts 6.1** *But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.*

- Feelings of discontent always precede voices of **COMPLAINING** .

**Acts 6.2-4** *So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the Word of God, not running a food program.”<sup>3</sup> And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility.<sup>4</sup> Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the Word.”*

***Fault finding is easy; fixing problems is not.*** There are people in every organization who poke holes in the boat by their passive reluctance to contribute or from their aggressive nature to wreak havoc from their caustic attitude. These people seldom if ever see themselves as the problem.

The one who is helping to row the boat seldom has time to rock it.

1. “SELECT” in verse 3 means to **OBSERVE** by inspection and examination.
2. Well respected > known by the quality of their **CHARACTER** .
3. Full of the Holy Spirit > known by their surrender to and led by Him in their **DECISIONS** .
4. Full of wisdom > known by their **ABILITY** to make wise decisions on practical matters people face.

*"All believers have the Spirit indwelling them, but not all are Spirit-filled or dedicated to walking in the Spirit."*

Grant Osborne

**Acts 6.5,6** *Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith).*

<sup>6</sup>*These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.*

**Acts 6.7** *So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.*

### LESSONS FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Trouble can be an opportunity to **MATURE** if handled with prayer, wisdom, and the orchestrated reliance on the Holy Spirit.
2. Two characteristics in a healthy (*not perfect*) church are the **TANGIBLE** meeting of needs while keeping the proclamation of the gospel the priority.
3. It's never a waste of time to locate the needs of others and then go do something about it.
4. Unity in Diversity (*CVC's 4th value*) is not realized in a **CASUAL** approach, but with a tenacious effort.
5. No one is **BEYOND** the reach of God's grace.

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner, and there is nothing that I can do to save myself. I confess my complete helplessness to forgive my own sin or to work my way to heaven. At this moment, I trust Christ alone as the One who bore my sin when He died on the cross. I believe that He did all that will ever be necessary for me to stand in Your Holy presence. I thank You that Christ was raised from the dead as a guarantee of my resurrection. As best as I can, I now transfer my trust to Him. I am grateful that He has promised to receive me despite my many sins and failures. Father, I take You at your word. I thank You that I can face death now that You are my Savior. Thank You for the assurance that You will walk with me through the deep valley. Thank You for hearing this prayer. In Jesus' Name. Amen.