

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning - 2-1-26
Christianity 103 – Message 6 Part 1
God reveals additional leadership.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) The Apostles were brought before the religious leaders and commanded –
- 2) The Apostles responded – “We ought to obey God rather than men.”
- 3) Peter spoke the truth to these religious leaders.
- 4) Gamaliel tried to offer wisdom for this situation.
- 5) The Apostles are threatened and then beaten.
- 6) The church did not get distracted but kept its focus on the mission.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) The Apostles survived and counted themselves worthy to have suffered shame for Jesus.
- 2) The church did not stop or change its strategy.
- 3) Remember – if satan can’t hinder the church from without, he will try from within.
- 4) Unity is precious and necessary for God to accomplish His will in and through our lives.
 - a) Proverbs 6:19 –
 - b) Matthew 11:25 –
- 5) A problem has come up within the church.

2. A problem comes up. Acts 6:1

a. Growing pains. “When the number of the disciples was multiplied.”

- 1) The church is experiencing growing pains.
 - a) When a church grows, the structure of the church must grow so that it can continue to function effectively.
 - b) It is getting harder for the Apostles to minister to everyone.

b. Understanding both groups. Acts 6:1

- 1) “there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews.”
 - a) “murmuring” – secret displeasure.
 - b) Hebrews – those who remained in Judea and used the Hebrew language.
 - c) Hellenists – believers scattered among the Gentiles who spoke Greek and used the Septuagint.”
- 2) The problem –
 - a) This conflict finally came out through complaints about food distribution.
- 3) Application:
 - a) When problems like this arise in the church, it presents the leaders with an opportunity.

3. A solution is presented. Acts 6:2

a. They come together to meet.

- 1) “Then the twelve called the multitude of disciples unto them, and said...”
- 2) “It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.”
 - a) I appreciate the Apostles here.
- 3) Pastors/teachers who are preaching and teaching regularly need time to pray and study, which means other leaders need to be developed to share the work.

4. Looking for a few godly men. Acts 6:3

a. Solution.

- 1) God moved in these Apostles to put forth a solution.
- 2) Look for 7 men. What are they looking for?
 - a) "honest report" – approved, honorable testimony.
 - b) "full of the Holy Ghost" – evidence of His presence and control.
 - c) "wisdom" – skilled in management of affairs.
 - d) Once they had unity, they could appoint them over this ministry.

3) Application.

- a) Part of the process we use here at Southside flows from this.

b. The Body is included.

- 1) Would it be hard to find these 7 men?
- 2) What might have happened had they not adjusted?

5. What a blessing when the Body functions as unto the Lord. Acts 6:4-6

a. Verse 4 –

- 1) You see God's strategy for His Church concerning His under-shepherds.

b. Verse 5 –

- 1) What do you see? Do you see unity here?

c. Verse 6 –

- 1) Leadership is functioning, the Body is in unity, and this is driving the enemy mad.

d. Verse 7

- 1) Doing church God's way works!

6. Today's Takeaway:

a. Problems will always come up in the local church.

b. Is Acts 6:7 something you really want to see and be a part of?