



All Citizens Christian Church

Bible Study: Thursday, Nov - Dec 2015.

Topic: Acts 6.

After the display of the death of Ananias and Sapphira, the church continued to expand tremendously. As it is expected out, as a result of the growth different personalities and tribes were added to the church. The lifestyle or call it ideology of you may designed by the Apostles now began to spiral into a challenge. As a result of the mixture of different people, a seeming segregation was beginning to brew. A situation which if not checked or properly handled could derail the growth of the church. The Apostles quickly took care of this and the church continued on its upward growth as enabled by the Holy Spirit. Chapter 6 talks about this challenge and how the Apostles handled it and then introduced one of the deacons. May the Lord grant us understanding as we go through this study together in Jesus Name.

Seven Chosen to Serve

6 Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

- **Is church growth a bad thing?** Matt 28:19. Isa 52:10; Mark 16:15.
- **What are the challenges associated with growth?** John 6:14-15, Acts 6:1, Acts 5:1-4
- **What was the challenge here?**
- **Who were the Hellenists?** Acts 2: 5-8,
- **How did the disciples hear the problem?** Read verse 1 in KJV
- **Is that a proper way to let grievances out in the church?** Matt 18:15-17
- **Why did the disciples adopted this approach?** Discuss

²Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

- How did the disciples choose to solve the problem? Act 4:32, 34, 2:44. They called the entire assembly. Note that this was the first time they were doing this. This is called participatory leadership. It enables all to take ownership of the growth of the church.
- Is this the only pattern for getting issues solved in church?
- Why do you think this pattern resolved the problem to the satisfaction of everyone?
- What is the difference between this and democracy? Answer is in the next verse.

³Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- What were the qualities required from these people. I Tim 3:8-13
- What is the work of deacons (diakonos) that required that they have these qualities? They were to wait on the people and their job was not just to share food but it involved Facilities management, benevolence, finances, Ushering and Logistics.
- These qualities fall into three categories: Moral, spiritual and practical.
- Do you think the average church is lacking in these qualities today? Compare with II Tim 3:1-5

⁵And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

- Of all the Deacons chosen, were they all Jews? Verse 5
- How many were Hellenists and how many were pure Hebrews? Did the disciples use the quota system here?
- In our days will some churches accept these choices?
- What is the laying of hands supposed to serve here? Hint: Acts 2:1-4.
- Why was it important for the Apostles to lay hands on the seven after they have been selected? Did it really matter?
- What is the importance of laying on of hands. I Tim 4:14, II Tim 1:6.
- What does 1 Tim 5:22 mean therefore?

- From what you found in this scripture what is the work of the church pastoral team? Acts 6:2

⁷Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- With true disciples in church, proper management, and with love as the foundation, the church is bound to grow.
- A job well done attracts even your critics. Prov 16:7

Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

⁸And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. ¹⁰And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon *him*, seized him, and brought *him* to the council. ¹³They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

- Stephen went beyond food distribution. In some churches today do you think some leaders will hinder Stephen
- As leaders in church how should we handle the gifts exhibited by people. II Tim I:6.

CONCLUSION: The church leaders have the responsibility to keep the work of the church going while the church itself has the responsibility to listen to the leaders. If this is not properly handled, the environment becomes lawless and toxic. This been said, it is not the function of the leaders to make slaves out of the followers. We should understand the compensating or symbiotic nature of the leaders and the led if the church is to achieve its set objective.