

THE FIRST CHURCH PROBLEMS

Acts 6:1-7

Acts 1-3 describes the first church as nearly perfect, but Acts 4-6 describe 3 _____ in the first church:

- 1) _____ : temple guards arrested apostles: they were tried, imprisoned and beaten
- 2) _____ : Ananias & Sapphira committed obvious, public sin and God struck them dead
- 3) _____ : this problem was a function of the church “multiplying” to probably 20,000

I. THE PROBLEM

A. The _____ Problem

- 1) The Law demanded Jews care for _____ ; Jews started the church and continued this pattern
- 2) “Complaint” is the same word used in the OT for the _____ of Israel against Moses

B. The Underlying Problem: the first church was composed of both Hebrew and Hellenistic _____

- 1) Hebrew Jews were born in Palestine & spoke Aramaic; they regarded themselves as _____
- 2) Hellenistic Jews descended from Jews who did not return from the _____ and spoke Greek
- 3) These differences suggest almost 2 different _____ developed within the Jerusalem church

II. THE SOLUTION

A. Non-Solutions

- 1) They did not _____ the church with the Hellenists forming the Second Church of Jerusalem
- 2) The Hebrews did not _____ the Hellenists using Roberts Rules of Order and a 51%+ majority

B. 7 Principles for Determining Solutions to Church Problems

Principle #1: _____ of Labor—the apostles admitted they could not do everything needed to lead
Today many pastors do NOT follow the apostles and focus on _____ rather than the Word

Principle #2: Spiritual _____ —1) They had good _____ , needed because they would handle money; 2) They were full of the Holy _____ ; 3) They had _____—could get things done

Principle #3: _____ Leadership—these 7 became leaders of the church who expanded it to the Gentiles; the NT teaches that churches are to have elders (pastors)—plural and _____ —plural

Principle #4: _____ Organization—churches must not put the way they do things on the same level as fundamental _____ ; churches need to be agile, able to flex and adapt to _____

Principle #5: _____ Governance—neither the spiritual leaders of the church nor the congregation had full authority to make _____ ; the apostles recommended and the congregation acted on it

Principle #6: _____ in Action—all 7 men chosen to oversee the distribution to the widows were _____ Jews; the majority voluntarily looked out for the interests of the _____

Principle #7: Commitment to _____ --the same root word is used to describe the work of the 7 (v.2) & the work of the apostles (v.4); when the church focuses on _____ then problems get solved