

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Acts 6:1-5

For Starting

- What is the first thing you think of when you wake in the morning?
- If you found a large amount of money, would you keep it, or would you try to find the owner? Why?
- What qualities do you look for in a friend?
- What was your reaction when you first walked into an *enormous* church auditorium?
- What word or phrase stands out when you read this passage?

For Reviewing

- Identify the different types of discrimination seen in v.1?
- How did the Twelve Disciples address the problems (v.2)?
- What character qualities did the 7 men need to have (v.3)?
- What did the Disciples say that would focus on instead (v.4)?
- How did the people respond to the Disciples' suggestions (v.5)? What nationality were the selected men (v.7b)? See footnote. Was this significant?

For Discussion

- Philippians 2:14-15 says to do everything without complaining or arguing. So, in Acts 6:1, should the Greek-speaking Christians have complained at all?
- What dangers are there today when a church experiences significant growth? What are the advantages and disadvantages of being part of a large church congregation?
- In addition to the character qualities in v.3, what additional abilities would you include? Why?
- "*Church disunity always has the potential to slow down the flow of the gospel*". Do you agree/disagree? Why or why not? How does this impact our personal and corporate praying today?
- What does the priority of praying together say to us personally?
- You could end by reading together Acts 6:3-4.

Acts 6:1-5 (NIV)

The Choosing of the Seven

¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.¹

¹ “The seven names are all Greek, suggesting they were not Palestinian Jews; it is true that Greek names were used by Palestinian Jews (e.g. Andrew, Philip), but, apart from Philip, these are unlikely names for Palestinians. Stephen and Philip come first in the list because of their later importance in the story; especially Stephen’s fuller description as ‘a man full of faith’. The last name (Nicolas) was a proselyte, who would be considered a ‘proper’ Jew.”

Source: Tyndale New Testament Commentaries – Acts (I. Howard Marshall: 1991)