



### Improving Our Church Together (Acts 6:1-7)

### "Improving Our Church Together" (Acts 6:1-7)

- <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.
- <sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

### "Improving Our Church Together" (Acts 6:1-7)

- 6:1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.
- <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, 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 <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

### Handling Church Conflicts

- Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)
- Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)
- Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)
- Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)
- Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)

### Handling Church Conflicts

- Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)
- Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)
- Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)
- Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)
- Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)

### Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances

- 6:1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.



- <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
- <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5:22-27)

## • Church Growth

## • Division

## • Misunderstanding



## C.C.C.C.



## Church Theme: Renewal

## • Worship

## • Fellowship

## • Building and Ground



## Handling Church Conflicts

- Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)
- Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)
- Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)
- Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)
- Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)

## Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)

- <sup>2</sup> 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."

- **Taking Initiative**
- **Edification**
- **Step by Step**



### Two Approaches in Handling Conflict

Human Tendency	Biblical Teaching
As a Visitor	Member of the Family
Hiding Oneself	Taking Initiative
Discussion Behind the Person	Communication Face to Face
Forming Cliques	Approaching Issue Step by Step
Church Divided	Church Growth


### Handling Church Conflicts

- **Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)**
- **Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)**
- **Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)**
- **Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)**
- **Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)**

### Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)

- **6:3 Brothers and sisters, 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 .**


- **Delegating Authority**
- **Spiritual Qualification**
- **Serving Attitude**



...seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom...  
Parnasus, Nicanor, Philip, Stephen, Timon, Onesimus, Prochorus

### Deacons

- **Thanksgiving**
- **Faithful**
- **Humble**
- **Devotion**



## Congregation

- **Thanksgiving**
- **Praying**
- **Supporting**
- **Respecting**




## Handling Church Conflicts


- **Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)**
- **Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)**
- **Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)**
- **Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)**
- **Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)**

### Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)

- **6:4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.**



- **Keeping the Priorities Straight**
- **Prayer and Ministry of the Word**



### Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)

- **Vicious Cycle**
- **Benign Cycle**
- **Pastors/Elder**
- **Deacons**
- **Congregation**

## Handling Church Conflicts

- **Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)**
- **Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)**
- **Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)**
- **Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)**
- **Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)**

### Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)

- <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.
- <sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

## 危机与机会 Crisis vs. Opportunity

- Church Solidified
- Beautiful Testimony
- Church Multiplication

### Church Growth



### Handling Church Conflicts

- Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)
- Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)
- Choose Faithful Leaders and Respect Them (6:3)
- Have a Proper Division of Labor (6:4)
- Solved Problem Leads to Church Growth (6:5-7)



### Improving Our Church Together (Acts 6:1-7)