
Fellow Workers

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Sermon Outline:

- I. People Attended to with Equity (Acts 6:1,7)
 - A. Numerous but not numbers
 - B. Different but not dismissed
- II. Elders Attend to Word and Sacraments (Acts 6:2,4)
 - A. Redemptive complaints
 - B. Real shepherds
- III. Deacons Attend to Tables (Acts 6:3, 5-6)
 - A. Widows
 - B. Orphans
 - C. Sojourners
 - D. Unsaved

Discussion Questions

1. What was the most likely reason that the Hellenists' widows were being neglected? What misunderstanding of the Gospel did this reveal?
2. What are the characteristics of a redemptive complaint?
3. How does the Church's ministry of meeting practical needs of people in its city serve as a witness to unbelievers? Where do you see example(s) of this in Scripture?

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4. What are the primary responsibilities of elders?
 5. What is the congregation's responsibility with regard to elders?
 6. What are the four groups of people deacons are tasked with caring for?
 7. Why did Jesus give the church officers to aid in its mission? How does it demonstrate the Gospel?

Going Deeper

1. What incorrect or insufficient view of church officers have you had in the past? How has this study helped your understanding?
2. How can you utilize and/or love and encourage your church officers better?
3. Spend some time praying for the officers of 2PC. You can view a list of their names at 2pc.org/about-us/officers/