

Acts 6

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) 6:1 Our prejudices often carry over into our Christian lives.
- 2) 6:1 Just meeting spiritual needs was an overwhelming task, let alone caring for physical needs. The explosive growth left little time to adjust. As a result, the apostles could no longer handle the load of the congregation.
- 3) 6:2 Even though the Hellenists had the grievance, the problem involved the entire congregation; the apostles wanted total participation in resolution.
- 4) 6:2 This was not an issue of superiority, but rather of priority and of operating within the scope of giftedness.
- 5) 6:3 A good reputation was essential as they would be entrusted to manage the people and with large sums of money to purchase food to be distributed.
- 6) 6:3 Being full of the Spirit implied two things:
 1. the person was saved (Romans 8:9)
 2. the person was led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14)
- 7) 6:3 Practical wisdom applies Biblical truth to everyday life.
- 8) 6:5-6 Sound leadership and clear thinking produces unity.
- 9) 6:6 Laying on of hands signified the support of a specific ministry.
- 10) 6:7 Those who knew the Old Testament well were being convinced that Jesus was truly the promised Messiah.
- 11) 6:7 A unified, well-taught church is a powerful witness, to the degree that even those who have been previously blind to the truth will see.
- 12) 6:12 Stephen trusted God fully and concentrated on doing what God wanted him to do; the consequences were in God's hands.

13) 6:13-14 Stephen's accusers did not put words into his mouth; they twisted what he did say.

14) 6:15 God answered the false charges by putting His glory on Stephen's face.

Discussion questions:

- Why did the early church choose their best spiritual leaders to serve?
- Why is there tension in growth?
- Why was Stephen attacked?

GREEK WORDS

Plērēs—to be filled up

Suzēteō—refers not to a quarrel but to a formal debate

Hupoballō—to suggest or prompt

Sunarpazō—to seize with violence

TODAY'S SONGS

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