

Growing Pains

Acts 6:1-7



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Introduction

Church growth is a wonderful thing, but it can also create challenges. With the sheer numbers and diversity of people who were entering the church, some believers' care needs were being overlooked. How could the apostles keep preaching and expanding the work of the gospel, while also meeting all the needs of the church? Acts 6 outlines the problem and the solution the apostles found, which enabled the gospel to grow back then and can help it grow today.

Church growth ...

1. Needs careful stewardship (vv. 1-4)
2. Requires godly leaders (vv. 5-6)
3. Wins fruitful converts (v. 7)

Notes

Questions to Ponder

1. Look up on Google who the 'Hellenistic Jews' were. Why was it so important to look after the Hellenistic widows, and what would have happened if solutions weren't found?
2. Read Acts 6:2. What did the apostles see as the priority for their role in the church? How can we ensure that it remains our priority today?
3. What were the qualifications needed for the seven men who would oversee the food distribution? Why did they have to be so spiritually qualified, and what does that teach us about practical work in the church?
4. How were these new 'deacons' chosen? What does that teach us about how leaders emerge in a church?
5. Why do you think Luke tells us that Nicolas was 'from Antioch, a convert to Judaism'? Why was it important for the growth of the church that men like Nicolas became recognized leaders?
6. Why does Luke call the new Christians 'disciples' in (v.7)? What is a disciple, and what does it mean to be a 'disciple-making disciple'?