

**Acts 6v1-15**  
**SM and AS**  
**20200802**

Church is growing

But also facing difficulties – Life / worl / 5v3 – Satan

1. Persecution – force, flogging
2. Corruption – within, Ananias and Sapphira
3. Distraction - -at first seems less dangerous, but just as dangerous – and as the church has battled the first 2 through history, so with Distraction.

We'll concentrate on 6v1-7

- a. 6v7 is a marker (1v8, 6v7, 9v31, 12v24, 16v5, 19v20, 28v30-31)
- b. 8-15 are linked to v1-7 (Stephen) but also an introduction to chapter 7 – Guy for 2 weeks.

**Growth v1**

**Problem**

As members increase – so do different types of people in the church.

Widows – and as their care comes in to focus, a difference within the church comes out.

Hellenic vs Hebraic Jews. (language and culture)

There's no suggestion that what's going on is deliberate, but there is a divide.

So Apostles (the leaders) look to fix it.

Maybe they tried to sort it – not sure, but knew it needed to be done.

So, whether they experienced or just saw the problem, they knew it had to be done, but they also realized that they couldn't and shouldn't do everything.

Because

- Serving tables would mean that the apostles would be kept from preaching the word of God
- They're not claiming it was a job "beneath them" – look at the quality of the people who were chosen
- But everybody cannot do everything
- AND Acts tells us that Prayer and the Word of God is what grows the church

It's so easy to be distracted,

- Perhaps in what we think the church should be doing
- What we think the minister should spend his time doing
- Or the failure of the minister to do what he was called to do
- We we think a church service should look like
- Or the creep of often understandable admin and regulations in to church life

But there's a second thing in these verses to spot.

The apostles call a meeting and make a suggestion.

V4 – not "the" ministry but this ministry and that ministry

And not limiting – see Stephen in 6v8

V5 – church agreed and chose 7, Stephen, Philip and 5 more

Here's the thing – all 7 were Greek names.

The majority Hebrew church chose Greeks to look after this practical job.

They could have kept it to themselves, they could have shared it out – but all 7.

Do you see that they gave up responsibility and privilege and say, for the sake of unity.

Unity really matters and for it we need humility and a very real willingness to give things up and let things go.