



Church's Growing Pain (Acts 6:1-7)



Two Challenges

- Pastoral Search
- Church Building

Church's Growing Pain (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.
- ² 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. 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 ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Church's Growing Pain (Acts 6:1-7)


- ⁵ 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. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.
- ⁷ 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.

Handling Church Conflicts

- Principle #1: Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances (6:1)
- Principle #2: Handle the Problem with a Positive Attitude (6:2)
- Principle #3: In Tackling the Problem, Keep the Structure Flexible (6:3)
- Principle #4: Keep the Right Focus While Addressing the Problem (6:4)
- Principle #5: Solved Problem Opens More Opportunities to Growth (6:5-7)

Principle #1: 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.



Principle #1: Problem May Arise Even under Good Circumstances

- Church Growth
- Division
- Misunderstanding



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

- ² 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.

Principle of Communication

- ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, **just between the two of you**. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, **take one or two others along**, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, **tell it to the church**; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
- (Matthew 18:15-17)

Two Approaches in Handling Conflict

| Human Tendency | Biblical Teaching |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Emphasis on Fault Finding | Emphasis on Edification |
| Hiding Oneself | Taking Initiative |
| Discussion Behind the Person | Communication Face to Face |
| Forming Group | Approaching Issue Step by Step |
| Problem Magnified | Problem Solved at Earliest Stage |

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

- Taking Initiative
- Edification
- Step by Step



Principle #3: In Tackling the Problem, Keep the Structure Flexible (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 .

Principle #3: In Tackling the Problem, Keep the Structure Flexible (6:3)

- Delegating Authority
- Spiritual Qualification
- Serving Attitude



Principle #4: Keep the Right Focus While Addressing the Problem (6:4)

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



Principle #4: Keep the Right Focus While Addressing the Problem (6:4)

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



Principle #5: Solved Problem Opens More Opportunities to Growth (6:5-7)

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- ⁷ 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.

Principle #5: Solved Problem Opens More Opportunities to Growth (6:5-7)

- Church Solidified
- Beautiful Testimony
- Church Multiplication



危机与机会

**Crisis vs.
Opportunity**