

INTRODUCTION

- * In our exegetical study of the Acts of the Apostles we have seen that God has been adding to the church - sometimes dramatically and sometimes daily. At the conclusion of Peter's teaching to the crowd which gathered, as a result of the healing of the lame man, we are told that the church to 5,000 men (not counting the women and children)! Remember, in Acts 1 we saw that after the Ascension of Jesus there were 120 believers meeting in the upper room. Now, after this event with the lame man and the subsequent interactions with the Sanhedrin, the church was growing even more!
- * With growth ... comes growth pains. The early church did not get a "pass." As James would later write, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:2-4)
- * In Acts 6, we are introduced to the first major "internal" test for the church. The great unity that they had was starting to be tested. How would they respond? What would they do? What would be the results?

INSTRUCTION**I. THE NEED (v. 1)****A. The C_____**

1. THE T_____ OF THE BODY
 - * Acts 2:41,47; 5:14 the transition (Acts 4:31) ... 5:14,16; 6:1-2,5,7; 9:31; 12:24; 14:1; 17:4
2. THE P_____ TO THE POOR (cf. 2:44-45; 4:32,36-37; James 1:27)

B. The C_____

1. THE EXISTENCE OF U_____ (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:11)
 - * Hellenists (cf. Acts 9:29; 11:20) ... Ἑλληνιστῆς - Greek-speaking Jews (literally: Hellenized)
not Ἕλληνας - Greeks cf. Acts 14:31; 16:1,3; 17:4; 18:4,17; 19:10; 20:2,21; 21:28)
 - * contrast with Paul (cf. Philippians 3:4-6)
2. THE EXISTENCE OF U_____ (cf. Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Peter 4:8-9)

II. THE SOLUTION (v. 2-6)**A. The P_____ of the Plan**

1. THE C_____ OF THE A_____ (v. 2,4)
2. THE C_____ OF THE S_____ (v. 3; cf. 1 Timothy 3:8-13)
3. THE C_____ OF THE A_____ (v. 5a)

B. The S_____ of the Servants

1. THEY WERE C_____ BY THE A_____ (v. 5b)
2. THEY WERE C_____ BY THE A_____ (v. 6)

III. THE RESULT (v. 7)**A. The Word of God Spread****B. The Number of the Disciples Multiplied Greatly****C. A Number of the Priests Were Obedient to the Faith!****INTROSPECTION**

- * How are we doing, at Family Bible Church, at meeting the needs within the assembly?
Do you seek to be aware of the needs of others, or only your own? (cf. Philippians 2:1-5)
- * Men, how do you measure up to the qualifications of an "official" deacon?
- * Regarding the Biblical governance of the church: We need to be committed to applying Biblical principles; to be elder-led not elder-ruled.
- * How are we handling internal struggles? We must be pro-active in prayer seeking unity and wisdom from God.
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * What are some specific ways in which we could improve in ministering (serving) to one another in this assembly?