

“People Of Service!”

Acts 6:1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the **Twelve (Apostles)** summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, *“It is not desirable that we should leave the **Word of God** and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, **Seek Out** from among you **Seven Men of Good Reputation, Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business; but **We Will Give Ourselves Continually to Prayer and to the Ministry of the Word!**”* And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they **Chose (Seven Men)**, **Stephen**, a man Full of Faith and the Holy Spirit, and **Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas**, and **Nicolas**, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they **Set** before the **Apostles**; and when they had **Prayed**, they **Laid Hands on Them (Seven Men)**. Then the **Word of God Spread**, and the **Number of the Disciples Multiplied Greatly** in Jerusalem, and a **Great Many of the Priests were Obedient to the Faith.** Acts 6:1-7 (NKJV)

Q: *“What Did Luke Want The Reader To Notice That Was New Here In This Passage?”*

A: The Congregation Of Believers Were Now Called **“Disciples”** For The Very First Time!

A: The Disciples Were Made Up Of Two Types

Of Cultural, Geographic, & Philosophical Peoples!

1) Hebrews – Palestinian Jews – God’s Original Chosen People – Israel

With A Very Old Set Of Cultural Traditions & Religious Traditions & Worldview

Who Spoke Primarily Aramaic & Hebrew – Some Greek

2) Hellenists – Pagan/Proselyte Greeks – God’s Other Flock – Gentiles

With A Very Old Set Of Cultural & Religious Traditions & Worldview

Who Spoke Primarily Greek & Latin – Some Aramaic

Q: *“According To Luke, What Were The Problems Rising Up In The Church In Those Early Days?”*

A: Mass Evangelism Led To A Great Influx Of New Believers – Disciples, Especially Among The Hellenists!

A: This Large Influx Of New Believers

Led To Many Early Administrative Needs In The Life Of The Church!

Q: *“What Were The New Administrative Needs Of The Church?”*

A1: There Was Still No Formal Hierarchy Of The Elders Or Church Administration!

The Apostles Were The De Facto Leadership Jesus Had Left In Charge, But There Were Only 12 Of Them At This Time To Run The Whole Ever-Growing Church

A2: The Church Had Not Yet Settled On What Was The Most Important Duties To Be Carried Out By The Apostles (**Elders** of the Church)

& Which Ones Should Be Left For Others In The Church (**Leaders & Members**)

A3: Because The Church Sold Everything & Contributed All To The Proceeds Of The Ministry In Those Early Days, There Were Many New Believers Who Had Very Little Or Nothing In The Way Of Land, Possessions, Or Wealth On Which To Subsist & Work!

Q: *“What Did The Apostles Do In Response To All These Needs?”*

A: The Apostles Developed With God’s Help In Prayer & Direction By The Holy Spirit A Hierarchical Structure Of Authority & Responsibility To Meet The New Church’s Needs!

Q: "What Should The Hierarchy Of The Church Look Like?"

Q: "How Should The Church Be Administrated?"

A: There Should Be A Three Tier System Of Church Hierarchy & Administration!

3 Tier System

1) Elders (Ordained Ministers)

Bishops, Evangelists, Missionaries, Pastors, & Deacons

2) Leaders (Local Ministers)

Committee & Ministry Leaders & Teachers

3) Members (Local Servants)

Everyone In The Congregation Who Assists In The Life Of The Church

Q: "What Are The Differences In Authority & Responsibility For Each Tier & Position?"

1: Elder Tier

A) Bishops & Pastors – Evangelists & Missionaries

Full Authority To Teach & Preach The Good News of The Word Of God & To Prayer

*"It is not desirable that we should leave the **Word of God** and serve tables ...
... but **We Will Give Ourselves Continually to Prayer and to the Ministry of the Word!**"*

1: Elder Tier

B) Deacons

To Active Everyday Service & Administration Of The Daily Life Of The Church Needs

*"Therefore, brethren, **Seek Out** from among you **Seven Men of Good Reputation, Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...**"*

2: Leader Tier

Committee Leaders, Local Ministers, & Teachers

(Music, Christian Education, Office Work, Outreach, School, etc.)

*"Then the **Word of God Spread, and the Number of the Disciples Multiplied Greatly in Jerusalem, and a Great Many of the Priests were Obedient to the Faith.**"*

3: Members Tier

Everyone In The Congregation Who Assists In Every Ministry They Are Called To
By The Giving Of Their Time, Talents, Spiritual Gifts, Tithes, & Offerings
For The Advancement Of God's Kingdom On Earth!

*"Then the **Word of God Spread, and the Number of the Disciples Multiplied Greatly in Jerusalem, and a Great Many of the Priests were Obedient to the Faith.**"*

**Q: "What Happens When Each Tier Works In Unity Together
& Within Their Sphere Of Authority & Responsibility In The Church?"**

**A: The Church Grows In Number, In Strength, In Influence,
& Importance, In The Community & The World!**

**A: God's Kingdom Grows & Empowers Others
To Live In Freedom By His Holy Spirit!**

Let Us Rise & Pray!

*"Lord God Let Us Be A People Under Your Headship & Your Authority,
Let Us Be A People Who Love & Service One Another In Your Church,
& For All Those Who Are Broken, Hurting, & Lost In This World,
Let Us Be A People Of Unity, Offering Grace, Forgiveness & Love
For Their Salvation, & For Your Glory!"*