

Introduction:

In Acts 6:1-7 we see how the early church made changes in how they operated in order to meet the evolving needs of the growing body of believers. You can find Pastor Mark's sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²



Scripture:

Please read [Acts 6:1-7 in your bible, or click here.](#)

So What?

“Churches must adapt to meet the changing needs of **people**. Acts 6:1-7 presents a case study of the growing pains of the early church. As people came to faith in Christ, new challenges arose. In order to meet the needs, the leaders needed to adapt their structure. Rather than try to do everything themselves, they needed to enlist the help of other servants. In so doing, the apostles laid the groundwork for the introduction of deacons, and later the deaconesses, to aid the elders in caring for the local church...Applying this passage to a modern day church, I believe we can support the following conclusion: When elders, deacons, and deaconesses serve well in their respective roles, priorities are maintained; needs are met; unity is preserved; evangelism is fruitful; the church grows; and God is honored.”³

“Churches must change and adapt (their methods) in order to meet the changing needs of the people.”



What Now?

1. The church must never compromise by changing the message of the Bible: Salvation through **Grace** alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone. Scriptural principles don't change, but methods come and go. We should always be willing to take a look at how we are fulfilling the commands and mission of the Bible, and be willing to change if needed, and if the change itself does not violate scripture. What examples can you think of today where people confuse changing methods with changing scriptural principles? How can we as individuals and as a congregation avoid that kind of pitfall?
2. In this passage, a significant problem was identified and brought before the Apostles. Both the Apostles and the congregation came together in order to affect a solution. Submission to leadership, unity within the body, and adaption were key to overcoming the evolving needs of the people. When we see there is a growing need within our congregation, rather than complaining about the situation we should follow this Biblical model so that the need can be identified, considered, and met. What might have happened if the various groups within the congregation sought separate or conflicting plans of action **in stead** of unity and joint effort?
3. Church growth is more than an increase in membership. Verse seven says that “the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly...”. By this we see that: **church growth is the outcome of leaders who are devoted to prayer and the ministry of the word, as well as a congregation that dwells in unity and is dedicated to service.** 2) Biblical church growth is accompanied by spiritual growth. The “word of God increased” means that it effectively reached more people, and those people were spiritually affected by it. How can we as individuals and as a congregation 1) aid our elders so that they can be dedicated to prayer and the ministry of the word 2) foster an environment of unity that promotes evangelism?
4. Do you feel moved to serve within the church but think, “I'm not qualified. What could I do?” Notice that the seven men were not chosen based on their education or qualifications; they were chosen because of their character. While not everyone will become a deacon, deaconess, or elder, we can all become people “of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” That means that we can all be used by God to serve one another within the congregation. Let us determine to 1) Make spiritual growth through prayer and dedication to the word a priority in our lives. 2) Look for opportunities to serve others.

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/09/06/dont-settle-for-cheep-substitoots/>

² <http://www.firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

³ The full text of this excerpt can be found in Pastor Mark's sermon notes.