

## **MAXIMUM IMPACT IN OUR WORLD**

**November 1, 2009**

### **SERMON TITLE- ACTS-traordinary: From Grumbling to Growing**

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**From Grumbling to Growing...**

**Acts 6:1-7**

In this text we find the first recorded "church squabble." Interestingly, the first trouble in the church started in the area that was their strength in the beginning (sharing, generosity, fellowship). This shows us that wherever God is working, the enemy and the flesh will also be at work negatively.

-The Grecian Jews felt overlooked in the distribution of food for their widows. The disciples determined that they needed help with this so they could focus on what they were called to do, which was prayer and ministry of the Word. Seven men were chosen to take on the food distribution program.

Observations from this passage:

- 1) The Greeks were part of the solution. All seven that were chosen had Greek names. It is easy to find fault and complain but are we willing to be part of the solution?
  
- 2) The ones who were chosen for the food distribution program had the same qualifications as the disciples (full of the Spirit and wisdom). In the eyes of the Lord, our service to Him is beautiful whether it be a public or less noticed position. Whatever our area of service is, we need to resist the temptation to be pulled to areas where we are not called to. (Keith's example...he loves working with his hands to see a finished product...but the Lord calls him to a job that he never sees a finished product. He constantly fights the temptation to be pulled to do work with his hands and fights lies that what he does matters.) The church must function like the body, with each member embracing his or her role for the good of the whole.

At this point in Acts, Satan has tried 3 ways to destroy the church

- 1) From the outside- persecution
- 2) Hypocrisy- Ananias and Sapphira
- 3) From within- division

In the coming months, we are going to have to be on high alert to the enemy's schemes as we are able to take new territory by moving into our new building.

### Verses on Unity

John 17:20-23

1 Corinthians 1:10

Ephesians 4:2-6

Philippians 2:1-4

Colossians 3:12-15

1 Peter 3:8

-Problems can be an opportunity for growth if those involved respond appropriately. The first step should be to go to the individual. If it is not resolved then it can be taken to leadership. The leadership of our church has an open door policy that strives to operate out of humility and lack of defensiveness (Matt 18:15-17)

Points to ponder...

1) Are there any issues that our group needs to address? Maybe use this night as a "check-in" time to see if there are any suggestions/problems/improvements that need to be discussed.

2) Are there any issues that I need to address personally with another member in our church (or outside) so that I can do my part not to let the enemy work through misunderstanding, miscommunication, bitterness, or grudges? (Obviously, this is a question to be thought about, not answered aloud with names)

3) Am I a complainer or someone who criticizes often? Am I contributing to the solution?

4) Am I seeking to serve out of who the Lord has made me to be and *called* me to be or am I being distracted by other roles that I *want* to do.

5) Pray, pray, pray for our church for the upcoming season of change

Lord thank you for the tremendous blessing of a unified church. May the blessings of unity we have experienced throughout the history of our church continue and define our future! Pour out your Spirit on our leadership and bless them in their commitment to this.

May we also be a church who is gracious to our leadership in prayer, in thought, in word, and in deed!

