

When the Church Grew Greatly

Acts 6:7

Introduction:

- A. Jerusalem church was united and growing from the start (Acts 2:41, 46-47; 4:4, 24; 5:12,14).
- B. Jerusalem church illustrates when the church are more likely to be united and growing.

Discussion:

I. When Members Were Really Converted.

- A. They had a change of heart.
 - 1. Toward Christ (2:36).
 - 2. Toward their sin (Acts 2:36-37).
- B. They had a change of relationship.
 - 1. To Christ and sin (Acts 2:38).
 - 2. To the world (Acts 2:40).

II. When Members Were Steadfastly Serving.

- A. In public worship (Acts 2:42).
- B. In daily service (Acts 2:46, 47; 5:28, 42; 6:1).
- C. In unselfish service (Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-34).

III. When Members Were Solving Problems.

- A. The problem of internal sin (5:1-11).
 - 1. God directly removed this leaven.
 - 2. God directs churches to do it (1 Cor. 5:6-7).
- B. The problem of internal unrest (6:1).
 - 1. Apostles solved this by addressing legitimate complaints.
 - 2. Such unrest needs to be stopped.
 - a. By addressing legitimate complaints.
 - b. Or dealing firmly with illegitimate complainers.

IV. When Members Were Effectively Organized.

- A. Jerusalem organized under apostolic oversight.
 - 1. Were only universal overseers the church ever had.
 - 2. Elders mentioned about other churches formed (cf. 11:30; 15:2).
- B. Effectively and efficiently organized for growth (6:1-6).
 - 1. Work load properly passed around.
 - 2. Each “office” expected to “major” in its field.
 - 3. Yet not so organized to remove individual initiative (cf. Acts 8:1)

V. When Members Were Deeply Convicted.

- A. Had to speak the truth (4:20, 21).
 - 1. Not overly concerned with technique — had to speak it (cf. “Durty Skkunk”).
 - 2. Not over concerned with consequences — had to speak it.
- B. Believed it was the only way to be saved (4:12)
- C. Believe it was an honor to suffer shame for His name (5:41,42).

Conclusion:

- A. What would happen here if we had all these things going for us?
- B. Why not begin by doing your part today?