

# THE FIRST CHURCH PROBLEMS

## *Acts 6:1-7*

Acts 1-3 describes the first church as nearly perfect, but Acts 4-6 describe 3 \_\_\_\_\_ in the first church:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ : temple guards arrested apostles: they were tried, imprisoned and beaten
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ : Ananias & Sapphira committed obvious, public sin and God struck them dead
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ : this problem was a function of the church “multiplying” to probably 20,000

### I. THE PROBLEM

#### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Problem

- 1) The Law demanded Jews care for \_\_\_\_\_ ; Jews started the church and continued this pattern
- 2) “Complaint” is the same word used in the OT for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel against Moses

#### B. The Underlying Problem: the first church was composed of both Hebrew and Hellenistic \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Hebrew Jews were born in Palestine & spoke Aramaic; they regarded themselves as \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Hellenistic Jews descended from Jews who did not return from the \_\_\_\_\_ and spoke Greek
- 3) These differences suggest almost 2 different \_\_\_\_\_ developed within the Jerusalem church

### II. THE SOLUTION

#### A. Non-Solutions

- 1) They did not \_\_\_\_\_ the church with the Hellenists forming the Second Church of Jerusalem
- 2) The Hebrews did not \_\_\_\_\_ the Hellenists using Roberts Rules of Order and a 51%+ majority

#### B. 7 Principles for Determining Solutions to Church Problems

Principle #1: \_\_\_\_\_ of Labor—the apostles admitted they could not do everything needed to lead  
Today many pastors do NOT follow the apostles and focus on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the Word

Principle #2: Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ —1) They had good \_\_\_\_\_ , needed because they would handle money; 2) They were full of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ ; 3) They had \_\_\_\_\_—could get things done

Principle #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership—these 7 became leaders of the church who expanded it to the Gentiles; the NT teaches that churches are to have elders (pastors)—plural and \_\_\_\_\_ —plural

Principle #4: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization—churches must not put the way they do things on the same level as fundamental \_\_\_\_\_ ; churches need to be agile, able to flex and adapt to \_\_\_\_\_

Principle #5: \_\_\_\_\_ Governance—neither the spiritual leaders of the church nor the congregation had full authority to make \_\_\_\_\_ ; the apostles recommended and the congregation acted on it

Principle #6: \_\_\_\_\_ in Action—all 7 men chosen to oversee the distribution to the widows were \_\_\_\_\_ Jews; the majority voluntarily looked out for the interests of the \_\_\_\_\_

Principle #7: Commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ --the same root word is used to describe the work of the 7 (v.2) & the work of the apostles (v.4); when the church focuses on \_\_\_\_\_ then problems get solved