

Addressing Growing Pains Acts 6:1-7

Problem: *Complaints concerning inconsistent care of widows, 6:1*

- ◆ Positive church growth is followed with a complaint (gripe/grumbling) about the unequal care of Hellenized (Greek influenced) versus Hebraic widows.
- ◆ What would cause this unequal handling of care?

- ◆ See I Timothy 5:3-16 for those widows who should receive even more care.

Solution: *addition of deacons, 6:2-4*

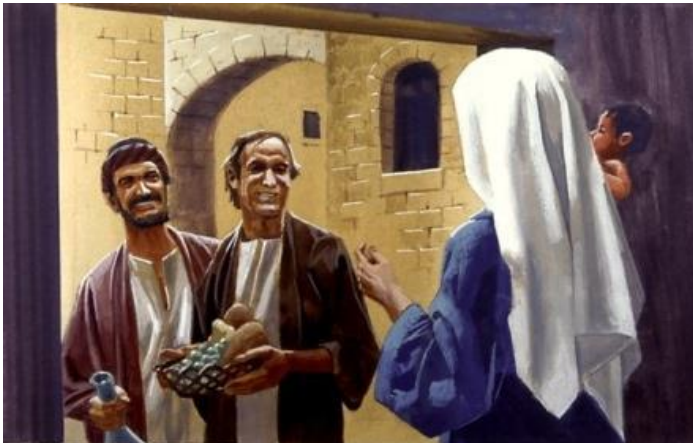
- ◆ How did the apostles not respond to this complaint?
- ◆ How was the apostles' response akin to Moses' response in Ex. 18:18-27?
- ◆ Though this position is not an office now, it leads to the office of deacon later.

Qualifications: *spiritual maturity a prerequisite, 6:3*

- ◆ Must be *well-spoken of* (cf. 16:2, 22:12), *full of the Spirit and wisdom* = spiritually sensitive /mature (focus = character, as in I Tim. 3:8-13).
- ◆ Goal is to take heat of the apostles so they can do their thing, v.4.
It's worth nothing a deacons' job will no doubt change in time.

Selection: *individuals chosen and listed, 5,6*

Note their backgrounds and that the first two listed dominate ch. 7,8.



Progress report: Repeat of positive church growth shows this was a good idea and that it solved the problem. It's great to hear about how many priests are being added too . . . but this will create a problem!