

“Growing Pains”

Acts 6:1-7

The Book of Acts tells us How RAPIDLY the first church was ADDING believers...

Then we're told the “Word of God Spread and the number of disciples MULTIPLIED greatly.” (6:7)

It's here we find some Problems surfacing among the people.

Today, we see Four Ways WE might experience “Multiplication” by wisely Handling our Growing Pains:

1. HANDLING GROWING PAINS DEMANDS DISCERNMENT. (v.1)

- Do you VIEW problems as OBSTACLES or an OPPORTUNITIES?
- Often, Success in the church is actually the Source of the problem.
- “Complaining” is NOT the way to Change Things.
- Many churches are destroyed by a ROOT of Bitterness.

2. HANDLING GROWING PAINS REQUIRES DETERMINATION. (vv.2-3)

- They could have IGNORED the Problem.
- They could have RESENTED the Problem.
- They could have OVER-REACTED to the Problem.
- They chose to FACE the Problem with Determination.

3. HANDLING GROWING PAINS REQUIRES DELEGATION. (vv. 4-5)

- The apostles weren't saying, “We're Too Good to serve tables...”
- The Church is Convinced that their Primary Calling was to PROCLAIM the Word of God & Be Faithful to PRAY.
- Instead of Complaining, they Delegate responsibility...(v.3)

4. HANDLING GROWING PAINS PRODUCES DIVIDENDS. (v.7)

- When people get Unified in Purpose the Greatest Dividend that occurs is EVERYONE'S gifts are UTILIZED.
- “THEN”...EVERYONE will be INVOLVED in the ministry. (v.7)
- Spreading of the gospel & the Growing of the church were CONTINUOUS Activities.
- “A Disciple is someone who has Moved from being the RECIPIENT of the Church's Mission to being RESPONSIBLE for the Church's Mission.”