



# Dealing With Division

**Acts 6:1-7**

*Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor*

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In Acts 6:1-7, God's Word shows how the church responded to its first serious internal crisis – a threat to unity that was rooted in ethnic division.

The sequence in Acts 6:1-7 is one that we can see and learn from:

1. Conflict (Acts 6:1) – rooted in the division between Hebrews and Hellenists.
2. Response (6:2) – Without hesitation, the apostles treated the problem as real and serious and in need of wisdom.
3. Solution (6:2-6) – The apostles appointed seven Hellenist men who had integrity and proven wisdom, and who were filled with the Holy Spirit.

4. Outcome (Acts 6:7) – God bore fruit through the church's testimony of responding well to the potential for conflict.

### Applications

A reminder that the body of Christ is not immune from such challenges. There's enough remaining sin in each of us that it is possible to show favor to those with whom we're close or more familiar, and to overlook and even neglect others.

We must be humble, willing to examine our own motives, listening to others, and speaking truth in love.

A reminder that we must not neglect our responsibility to disciple other believers, teaching them God's truth on His image in all people, on His hatred of the sins of injustice and partiality, and on His command that we love others as we love self.

As we advocate to the world, we should want good laws, and fair justice for all, and we should expect our government to defend the rights and liberties of all its citizens. But we must proclaim and live out the gospel to a lost and dying world. Amidst the sin and violence that fills our world, we must boldly call people to repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ.

### Questions to Consider

1. What does Luke describe at the heart of the early church's first internal crisis? What historical background is helpful in understanding this conflict?
2. How did the apostles respond? What is the evidence of their response? What lesson can you take away from their response to the complaint they faced?
3. According to Acts 6:7, what fruit resulted from how this matter was handled?
4. Luke does not explain any motives or desires that were behind the neglect of the Hellenist widows, but what do you know about your own propensities toward people who are similar to you or different from you? James 2:1-9 was written to believers. What warning does it contain?
5. Acts 6:1-7 is addressing conflict within the church, and yet the church's testimony had a powerful effect on outsiders, including priests. How do Christians balance advocating for just laws and fair justice for all, with our calling to make disciples?
6. Is there anything wrong with a message that only tells people to #dobetter #bekind?