

The Department of Church Growth and Development
Bible Study Outline

Scripture Text: Acts 6:1-15

Lesson #6 The Importance of Lay Leadership

Proposition: Very early in the life of the Church, both ministers and members recognized the importance of lay leadership to the success of a growing church.

1. The origin of lay leadership in the Church. (1-7)

- a. The Church experienced its first major problem. (1)
 - i. The Church experienced accelerated growth. (1)
 - ii. The Church heard complaints by the Greek Speaking Jews.
 - iii. The Church had neglected their widows in daily distribution.
- b. The Apostles called a member's meeting. (2)
- c. The Apostles shared their solution to the problem. (2-4)
 - i. We shouldn't leave the word of God and serve tables. (2)
 - ii. We should seek qualified laity to assume these tasks. (3)
 1. Persons of good reputation.
 2. Persons full of the Holy Spirit.
 3. Persons full of wisdom.
 - iii. We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. (4)
- d. The Church accepted their solution and implemented it. (5, 6)
 - i. They chose seven laymen who met the qualifications. (5)
 - ii. They set them before the Apostles. (6)
 - iii. The Apostles Prayed over them. (6)
 - iv. The Apostles ordained them by laying on of hands. (6)
- e. The Lay leadership positively impacted the Church. (7)
 - i. The word of God spread.
 - ii. The number of the disciples multiplied greatly.
 - iii. A great many of the priest were obedient to the faith.

2. Stephen: The Church's first prominent lay leader. (8-15)

- a. Stephen's character and Ministry. (8-10)
 - i. A man full of faith (God's grace was upon him) (8)
 - ii. A man full of power (he did great wonders and signs) (8)
 - iii. A man full of wisdom (his opposition was no match) (10)
 - iv. A man full of the Holy Spirit (God gave him words) (10)
- b. Stephen's opposition (11-15)
 - i. His opposition bribed men to accuse him of blasphemy. (11)
 - ii. His opposition instigated his arrest and had him brought before the Sanhedrin Council. (12)
 - iii. His opposition brought in false witnesses who charged him with blasphemy against the temple and the law. (13, 14)
 - iv. His opposition saw his face was like that of an angel. (15)