

“Conflict Resolution”

It is a Matter of Perspective!

Acts 6:1-7

We need a clear view of the:

I. **Problem** – “Grecians against the Hebrews” (vs 1)

We must seek to fully understand & appreciate the:

A. **Messengers** – “*a murmuring of the Grecians*”

- Murmuring is not only an onomatopoeia but it is also sin.
 - Philippians 2:14
 - John 7:12-13
- Some would say that the Apostles should have seen the problem before the Grecians were “forced” to murmur
 - The truth is there must be a better way because murmuring is not God’s way
 - Perhaps there needs to be a commitment on the part of those in the body to go to the proper person and report needs as they are seen. Truly communication is a two way street.

B. **Message** – “*their widows were neglected*”

- **The real message to hear is that there was individuals that were neglected = overlooked**

C. **Mess** – “*disciples were multiplied*”

- What caused the mess?
 - Was it the murmuring? NO
 - Was it the apostles inattention? NO
 - Or, was it the great success of the Holy Spirit’s regenerating souls?
- The truth is they had a great problem ... not just a great big problem but a great problem to have...too many converts
- Some conflict is bound to happen when growth and blessing occurs
 - It requires adjustments
 - It requires flexibility
 - It requires creativity
- All Messes come by surprise and test us. They will demand our:
 - Time
 - Skill
 - Patience

II. **Providence** – “when they had prayed” (vs 2-6))

When Conflict comes we can:

- Ignore it – Hoping it will go away (time fixes all things)
- Play the blame game – Look for a scapegoat
- Chastise & Speak down to people while exerting authority
- OR WE CAN REALIZE THAT:

We must thank God for the opportunity to:

- A. Examine** – *“It is not reason that we should”*
 - **Our Course of Action – Our Priorities**
- B. Exercise** – *“whom we may appoint”*
 - **Our Faith – Our trust in Other Christians**
- C. Express** – *“the saying pleased the whole multitude”*
 - **Our Love, Values, Goals, Passion**

III. **Potential** - “in Jerusalem greatly” (vs 7)

We must stay focused on the mission of:

A. Advancement – *“word of God increased”*

- **Outreach**

B. Addition – *“number of disciples multiplied”*

- **Discipleship**

C. Attraction – *“great company of the priests”*

- **Influence**

**Success breeds success but if handled correctly,
Failure breeds Success too.**

