

“Called to Serve”

Acts 6:1-7

In Acts 6 we find the earliest hints of local church structure and organization. Acts 6:1-7 helps us to understand what we ought to be and how we ought to function as a New Testament Church.

- I. The _____ in the Church (1-4)
 - A. The widows were _____
 - B. The apostles were _____
- II. The _____ of the problem (2-3)
 - A. The _____ of the people (3a)
 - B. The _____ for the position (3b)
- III. The _____ of the matter (7)
 - A. Apostles - _____
 - B. Widows - _____
 - C. People - _____

It was over a practical issue, and not over a matter of theological importance, that disagreement became acute. As daily allocations were made to poorer members of the church from the common fund to which the wealthier members had contributed their property, complaints began to arise that one group was being favored at the expense of the other. Widows naturally formed a considerable proportion of the poorer members of the church, and the Hellenistic widows were said to be at a disadvantage in comparison with the Hebrew widows, perhaps because the distribution of charity was in the hands of the “Hebrews.”

- F.F. Bruce