

When Problems Arise

(Acts 6:1-7)

While the church in the first century did grow rapidly through the spreading of the gospel, we need to understand that is not the end of the story. In addition to the many lost souls they won for the glory of God, the early Christians also faced problems. They faced problems like we do today!

How do we handle the problems that pop up and threaten to disturb the good work we are doing for God? The book of Acts provides us with the answers.

What do we need to remember when problems threaten our work?

I. They occur .

A. Problems in Acts:

1. The sin of Ananias and Sapphira (Act 5:1-11).
2. Dissension concerning widows (Acts 6:1).
3. Confusion concerning Gentile salvation (Acts 15:1)
4. The Corinthian church
5. Euodia and Synthche (Philippians 4:2)

B. Like them, we too will also deal with problems.

II. The source of our problems

A. Satan is at the core of them!

1. He is real (Matthew 4:1-11; Job 1:6-11).
2. He is our enemy (1 Peter 5:8).
3. He is the main one causing problems in the church (Acts 5:1-3).

B. Even in 2017, the devil is still trying to hinder the progress of the Lord's church.

III. They can ALWAYS be worked out .

A. The early Christians always worked through their problems together.

1. They appointed qualified men to be over the work of caring for widows (Acts 6:3-6).
2. They determined what God's will was concerning Gentile salvation (Acts 15:6-21).
3. They found a solution concerning John Mark so that evangelism could not be hindered (Acts 15:36-41).

B. Instead of splitting up and fussing and fighting whenever we have problems, Acts shows us that we can work them out and find godly solutions.

IV. God's work is bigger than me!

A. After working out their problems, God's work was able to continue prospering.

1. This was the result of God exposing the sin of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:12-14).
2. This was the result of deacons being appointed (Acts 6:7).
3. This was the result of Paul and Barnabas' solution concerning John Mark (Acts 15:39-41). They continued to preach the gospel!

B. God's work is bigger than any petty fusses we may have.

Conclusion: Let us always remember these things when problems arise from time to time.