

The First Deacons

Introduction: During these early years of the local church, there were some growing pains she had to go through. As the church grew and different _____ arose, new offices and ministries were formed to help the church become more effective in accomplishing the work of the Lord.

- I. The _____ (Acts 6:1)
- A. A _____ church will have more problems to deal with.
 - B. Having more people in the church is a _____ problem to have.
 - C. More people in the local church means more _____ that need to be met.
 - D. People do come to the church with legitimate needs which we should _____ for.
 - E. Caring for _____ without family is a biblical ministry of the local church (1 Tim. 5).
 - F. Yet, the church is not there to meet every social need-- _____ is needed, and its purpose is primarily to meet spiritual needs.
- II. The _____ (Acts 6:2-4)
- A. Problems can be good if they lead to proper _____.
 - B. The apostles had to make a _____--either try to do everything and thus do nothing well, or delegate responsibilities in order to do the important things well.
 - C. The calling of the apostles was to _____ the word, not to tend to business matters.
 - D. This position of overseeing financial and business matters was given to _____ men in the church.
 - E. These men were the first _____ of the local church.
 - F. They had to be reputable, _____, and practical—more qualifications would be given later by Paul (1 Tim. 3:8-13).
 - G. "The order here is significant—first _____, then the ministry of the word. They made it a point to speak to God about men before speaking to men about God" (MacDonald).
 - H. A pastor should be able to devote 100% of his energy to the ministries of prayer and _____.
- III. The _____ (Acts 6:5-15)
- A. Seven men were chosen by the local church to _____ the business matters of the church.
 - B. The local church thrived when everybody was doing their _____.
 - C. Stephen, one of the deacons, had a _____ ministry for the Lord.

Conclusion: When everybody in the church does their part, the work of the ministry will run more smoothly, people will not become burned out, and more can be accomplished for the Lord. What is your part in the Lord's local church He has placed you in?