

# ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

**Word and Deed**

**Acts 6:1-7**

## Acts 6:1-7

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

**<sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.**

**<sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.**



# Unhealthy Division (Insiders/Outsiders)

What this looked like back then

## “Hebrews”

- The 12 Apostles
- Spoke Aramaic
- Locals
- Held the Power  
(*given by Jesus*)

## “Hellenist”

- Jesus-Followers
- Spoke Greek
- Non-locals
- No Power
- Underserved

The early church was overwhelmed by huge growth

# Unhealthy Division

*(Insiders/Outsiders)*

What this looks like in the church

## “Insiders”

- Insider language
- *Inside jokes*
- *Friend Clusters*
- *Familiarity*

## “Outsiders”

- Learning curve
- Confused
- Need Persistence
- Lonely

# How we find hope

## Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...

Jesus Did It  
“emptied”

Will Empower It  
“is yours”

And Accomplish It  
“every knee”

# Healthy Division

*(Priesthood of Believers)*

**2<sup>b</sup> “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”**



# Healthy Division

*(Priesthood of Believers)*

## Word:

“Know & Grow”  
“Elders”

- Prayer
- Keep Gospel Foundation
- Teach and Equip

## Deed:

“Show & Go”  
“Deacons”

- *Diakoneō*: “to serve, help”
- Faithful Greeks (diverse)
- Chosen by the People

## 1 Peter 2:5

**you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

**It is therefore faith alone  
which justifies, and yet  
the faith which justifies is  
not alone: just as it is the  
heat alone of the sun  
which warms the earth,  
and yet in the sun it is  
not alone, because it is  
constantly conjoined  
with light.**

***John Calvin***

**We say that justification  
is effective without  
works, not that faith is  
without works. ...  
It is one thing that faith  
justifies without works; it  
is another thing that faith  
exists without works.**

***Martin Luther***

**Word without Deed is heartless  
Deed without Word is hopeless**

**Which do you lean toward?**

# The Gospel Unifier

## Jesus: The Word and Deed

### Word:

**“in the form of God...”**

***John 1:1***

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

### Deed:

**“became obedient”**

***John 1:14***

***And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

# Living Diversely Unified

**To all the insiders....**

- 1) It's our responsibility to initiate (respectfully)**
- 2) Don't just cluster on Sundays**

**To all the outsiders....**

- 1) Don't just sit and wait**
- 2) Join in...contacts card, Grace Classes etc.**

**To all of us....**

- 1) Word – Knowing and Growing in the Gospel**
- 2) Deed – “Missional Living”**



generous