**Living Life Together**

**by Solving Problems Quickly[[1]](#footnote-1)**

3 principles to help us know how to respond when problems arise

**I. Understand that Problems Frequently Occur in Christ’s Church**

A. Especially if the church family is experiencing numerical growth

**Acts 6:1** - *Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose…*

B. In their case, because of what appeared to be purposeful neglect

**Acts 6:1** - *Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.*

C. In our case

**II. Be Convinced that Problems are for Solving**

A. They summoned the congregation

**Acts 6:2** - *So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples…*

B. They clearly stated the problem

**Acts 6:2** - *So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables…”*

C. They suggested a clear, practical, workable solution

**Acts 6:3-6** - *Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.*

**Romans 5:1-5** - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

D. This solution is still serving Christ’s church today

1. Because of the important qualifications

**Acts 6:3** - *Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom…*

2. Their tasks were assigned by the apostles

**Acts 6:3** - *Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.*

3. What do deacons do today?

**1 Timothy 3:13** - *For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.*

**III. Believe the Solving Problems Often Leads to Greater Effectiveness**

**Acts 6:7** - *The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.*

1. Dr. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)