

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for June 12, 2011**

**“The Problems In The Church Described”**  
**Acts 6:1-7**

The church not only faced external attacks from the world but also internal arguments from members.

**1. The complaint (6:1)**

The number of disciples were at least 10,000 -20,000 at this point. The early church had organized the caring for the needs of the poor through the apostles (Acts 4:34-35).

Hebrew Jews	Hellenistic Jews
From Judea Spoke Aramaic as well as Greek Used the Hebrew Scripture Were culturally Hebrew Strictly adhered to the Old Testament	From outside of Judea Spoke Greek only Used the Septuagint Were culturally Greek Casually adhered to the Old Testament

The native Hebrews of Judea viewed the Hellenistic Jews as second-class citizens.

As the church grew so did the number of widows in need, particularly those who immigrated to Judea.

**2. The congregation (6:2-4)**

- a. The apostles solved the problem through discussion.
- b. The apostles solved the problem through delegation.
- c. The apostles solved the problem through discernment.
- d. The apostles solved the problem through devotion.

**3. The chosen (6:5)**

The approval of the congregation does not mean they took a vote, but simply that this plan was well received by the church. Effective leadership requires participation from the followers.

Each of the seven chosen had Greek names, indicating that though the Hebrew Jews were the majority, the congregation chose Hellenistic Jews. These men would later be referred to as “the seven” (Acts 21:8) and functioned as church leaders in the next two chapters of Acts.

The initial expansion of the Gospel beyond Jerusalem came from Philip, who eventually settled in Caesarea (Acts 21:8). God used Greek Christians to bring the Gospel to the world.

#### **4. The commission (6:6)**

The practice of laying their hands on the seven was a cultural practice that communicated the giving of authority and responsibility (e.g. Numbers 27:23).

The apostles held the final responsibility for the choice.

#### **5. The conclusion (6:7)**

The spread of the word of God will be repeatedly seen in Acts with roughly five years separating each report ((cf. Acts 9:31; 12:24; 16:5 19:20 28:31).

The report of the conversion of a great number of priests concluded the ministry expansion in Jerusalem as the Gospel moved to the world through the Greek Christians.

May God help our church to care for the needs of the church fairly so that we can bring the Gospel message to people of all cultural backgrounds.