

# **Servant Leadership**

**Acts 6:1-7**

# I. The Beginning of the Office of Deacon (vv. 1-3)

- A. Growing pains can lead to unintentional *neglect*
- B. Growing pains can lead to new *opportunities*
  1. The *origin* of the deacon office
  2. The *qualifications* of a deacon
  3. The *function* of a deacon
  4. The *gender* of a deacon/deaconess

a) In support of deaconesses as women

(1) Phoebe is referred to as a deaconess

(2) The qualifications of a deaconess are given

(3) There seems to be servant-oriented women who are possibly deaconesses

## b) In support of deacons being men not women

- (1) Phoebe is a *servant* of the church, not a deaconess
- (2) The qualifications given in 1 Tim. 3:11 are for a deacon's *wife*, not a deaconess
- (3) There are many servants in the Bible but not all are *officers* of the church
- (4) The first seven deacons appointed in the early church were all *men*

## II. The Responsibility of the Apostles (v. 4)

- A. Devoting themselves to prayer
- B. Devoting themselves to the ministry of the Word

### III. The Organization of the Church (vv. 5-6)

- A. The church was *unified*
- B. The deacons were *identified*
- C. The apostles *affirmation*

## IV. The Resulting Growth of the Church (v. 7)

- A. The influence of God's Word *increased*
- B. The number of disciples *multiplied*
- C. The priests became *obedient* to the faith

# TAKE HOME:

- How can this passage teach us to love and serve one another faithfully?
- How can we as church support our elders to devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word?
- What can we learn from organization and how it can lead to growth?