

Acts #37

“Can I Have a Little Help from My Friends?” *Acts 6:1-4*

The priority of the apostles is the same as it is for pastor-teachers today; it’s the ministry of the Word and prayer and so, they need underlings to assist in the ministry of helps and governing the local assembly.

So, they act in accordance with their authority and appoint seven men to loosely function in the role of table-waiters or deacons.

This establishes the chain of command to include two leadership groups; one in charge of the other dedicated to the ministry of the Word and prayer and the one which takes orders from the elders, known as deacons, dedicated to administrative function of the local church.

During those 40 years before Jerusalem would be destroyed, the church would go from a local church in Jerusalem to a world-wide organized organism.

But there’ll be no expansion or missionary activity until the local church is stabilized.

The division-creating quarrels and other difficulties which arose are based upon the principle that there was instability in the local church which always frustrates evangelism and world-wide expansion.

Proclaiming Jesus as Messiah emphasizes that their message demonstrated that Jesus of Nazareth whom they crucified, fulfilled all Messianic prophecies in their Hebrew Scriptures.

“Disciples” is what the early Christian’s called themselves; disciples are learners or students of biblical truth.

The followers of Christ were called the Nazarenes or the Galileans by the Jews and they were called Christians by the Roman world which means followers, soldiers or slaves of Christ, a term of ridicule but they called themselves ‘disciples’ because their emphasis was on learning the Word of God.

Here we have two groups which have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior but each has a different cultural background and instead of embracing their non-essential differences, we have antagonism, a problem that exists in any local church.

Basically, there are two solutions to varied backgrounds of individuals within a local church: 1. Biblical truth learned, understood, believed and applied and that means growing up, orienting to grace, becoming a relaxed wonderful believer where background prejudices and difficulties are non-existent.

The second solution is fair and just administration within the local church; the responsibility of a specific kind of leadership in the local church, originally known as deacons.

Complainers can't help but spread malcontent throughout their churches and it's sadly, a common satanically motivated practice.

We can moan and whine to everyone who'll listen and some who won't but the only people who can do something about it is us.

When someone complains to others even if they're involved but can't do much about it, that's this type of complaining.

The Greek word for right means pleasing to God or fitting in His sight; in other words, it's contrary to the Word and plan of God for pastors to become heavily involved in church administration.

The principle is that anything that keeps the pastor from studying and teaching must be eliminated and that is why administration is conducted by another type of leadership in the local church.

"We will give ourselves" is literally, "we will endure" with prayer and the ministry of the Word indicates that in the study and teaching of the Word, there's a quality that is absolutely necessary and that's endurance.