



How To Thrive In An Imperfect Church

Acts 6:1-7

Series: Acts, #6

December 29, 2024

Face the reality of being in an imperfect church.

1. Problems never take a holiday. (1)
2. Problems threaten unity and vitality. (1)

Avoid the possible disasters of being in an imperfect church.

1. Example: trying to do it all is a disaster waiting to happen. (2, 4)
2. Action: develop and carry out corrective and preventative steps. (3-6)

Enjoy the benefits of being in an imperfect church.

1. Sustained active ministry as we avoid the pitfalls. (7)
2. Sustained genuine growth as we avoid the pitfalls. (7)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Acts 6:1-7. This church, the first church, was a great church. They were growing (2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1) and thriving in fellowship (e.g. 2:42), unity (e.g. 4:32; 5:12) and ministry (e.g. 5:12). But they were not a perfect church. From the limited description in 6:1, describe the problem they faced.

Tuesday. All churches are imperfect. To thrive we need to avoid the disasters that come from not being perfect. If we use the wrong methods to correct and prevent problems we can set ourselves up for disaster. What did the apostles recognize as a wrong, unworkable method to deal with the problem in 6:1? Can you identify times and responses where you did or did not use the right approach or methods?

Wednesday. A plan without action is just a dream. Note the plan the apostles and people implemented in verses 3-6. List the elements of *who* and *what* involved in this plan. What lessons do you see here?

Thursday. There are great benefits from being part of a church, even with its imperfections. Read and summarize the benefits noted in verse 7. These benefits are not just an historical record—they are principles for us. What are you going to do and not do, or do differently to make sure we thrive in our imperfect church?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at 6:8 – 7:60. Yes, it is a long section, but read and reflect on it in preparation for our time together.