

Acts 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Analysis

The selection of seven men, all bearing Greek names, demonstrates the majority's willingness to entrust ministry to the offended minority. Stephen and Philip's future prominence shows these 'deacons' weren't limited to food service but became powerful evangelists. This principle of empowering potential leaders proved fruitful.

Historical Context

Stephen ('crown'), Philip ('lover of horses'), and others with Greek names indicate Hellenistic Jewish background. Their appointment around AD 32-33 satisfied the Greek-speaking Christians' concerns while unleashing gifted leaders.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the choice of Hellenistic deacons teach about resolving church conflicts?
2. How can churches identify and empower emerging leaders through serving roles?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἤρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλήθους
And **pleased** G2532 G700 G3588 **the saying** G3056 G1799 **the whole** G3956 G3588 **multitude** G4128

καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον ἄνδρα πλήρη πίστεως καὶ
And **they chose** G2532 G1586 **Stephen** G4736 **a man** G435 **full** G4134 **of faith** G4102 **And** G2532

πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ Φίλιππον καὶ Πρόχορον καὶ
Ghost G4151 **of the Holy** G40 **And** G2532 **Philip** G5376 **And** G2532 **Prochorus** G4402 **And** G2532

Νικάνορα καὶ Τίμωνα καὶ Παρμενᾶν καὶ Νικόλαον
Nicanor G3527 **And** G2532 **Timon** G5096 **And** G2532 **Parmenas** G3937 **And** G2532 **Nicolas** G3532

προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα
a proselyte G4339 **of Antioch** G491

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:24 (Faith): For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

Acts 21:8 (Parallel theme): And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

Acts 6:8 (Faith): And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 6:3 (Holy): Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 6:10 (Spirit): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Acts 11:19 (Parallel theme): Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

Proverbs 15:23 (Parallel theme): A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!