

Series: Acts – A Blueprint for Church Health
Message: Countering Conflict
Text: Acts 6:1-8 (AM 9-2-07)

Acts is the unfolding story of the maturation of the early church. God's hand was on His church and it grew exponentially. The burgeoning fellowship would not be exempt from problems. Rapid growth naturally leads to *radical change* and *real challenges*. Conflict is not bad. In fact it should be *expected* when the church is *expanding*. However how we *counter conflict* is *crucial*. The pastor's (Apostles) could not meet this new need in the congregation. God always has a remedy for any malady that ails His Body.

I. The Problem (1-2)

Unmet needs in the Body can lead to unrest in the Fellowship.

- The confusion – “*there arose a complaint*”
- The contention – “*the widows were neglected*”
- The convocation – “*the twelve summoned the multitude*”
- *Loving communication defuses the rancor of gossip!*

II. The Prevention

Every devastating fire begins with a spark.

- Be compassionate (Matt 5:23-24 & Matt 7:1-5)
- Follow His command (Matt 18:15-17)

III. The Process (3-5)

Christ always has a plan to counter conflict in His Bride.

- The call – “*we will give ourselves...to prayer and ministry*”
- The concept – “*whom we may appoint over this business*”
- The consensus – “*the saying pleased the whole multitude*”

IV. The Partnership (6-7)

Those that serve together stay together.

- They were chosen – “*seek seven men of good reputation...*”
- They were confirmed – “*when they prayed they laid hands on them*”
- The catalyst – “*the word of God spread and...the disciples multiplied*”

Application to our life: How will you respond to inevitable conflict?

