

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

Ice Breaker: What is the best experience you have had in serving at Crossroad?

1. The early church faced challenges like we do today. Many problems will be quite practical matters that create division of some type.
  1. What is one action you recognize that you can take to contribute to solving a problem or generally increasing unity at Crossroad? Caution not to merely identify a problem but make your focus on what you are ready to take action on yourself in an effort to contribute to the health of our church.
2. As a group, consider if there is anything we can do collectively to build community at Crossroad.
  1. What suggestions do you have that you are personally ready to invest in?
3. The enemy wants to distract us from what is important and hinder the advancement of Christ's Church.
  1. In our sermon text (Acts 6:1-7) there are two priority ministries mentioned. How do the Apostles determine the duties associated with these ministries should be divided?
  2. Consider how can we participate in service ministries, by the exercising our gifts, in order to free up those with pastoral duties to devote themselves to the ministry of the word? Discuss some specific things that you may be able to offer that would benefit the body and serve to remove workload for the Pastor?
4. In what ways is it a disservice to the body if the Pastor or leadership carry too much of the workload?
5. How can we prepare ourselves to be the kind of people that would take leadership responsibilities and serve the church to the glory of God?
  1. Individually?
  2. Collectively?

**Sermon Idea:** “Setting the right course for service in the church helps keep the gospel as the focus of the church.”

**I. Our church, like all churches, will face problems at times. (v 1)**

- A. The Jerusalem church was growing. (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1)
- B. When God is at work so is the enemy.
- C. Conflict arose in the church and became an immediate threat.
  - 1. The problem had practical implications.
  - 2. The problem had spiritual implications.
- D. What was the root cause of this problem?
  - 1. The complaint seems to have been legitimate.
  - 2. There was likely an element of social prejudice underlying the complaint.
  - 3. There was likely an element of over sensitivity underlying the complaint.
- E. What are some common causes of problems of division in relationships?
  - 1. Comparison (James 3:13-16)
  - 2. Partiality (Deut. 10:17; Job 34:19; Acts 10:34; James 2:1-13)
  - 3. Racism (Acts 10:28; 34-35)
  - 4. Social standing (Prov. 22:2; 29:13)
  - 5. Gossip (Eph. 4:29)
  - 6. Unforgiveness (Eph. 4:31-32)
- F. Living the gospel daily gives us victory of the sins that threaten our relationships (Romans 6:17-18)

**II. Our church must not let the problems we face distract us from the mission we have. (vv 2-6)**

- A. The preaching of God’s Word was to be the priority of the church. (v 2)
- B. The daily service to widows was vitally important to the everyday life and fellowship of the church. (v 3)
- C. The choosing of these seven leaders is an example of biblical problem solving and is a model for us today. (vv 3-4)
- D. They involved the whole church to solve the problem.
- E. What qualities are we to look for in this kind of leadership in the church?
  - 1. Integrity
  - 2. Spirit-filled living
  - 3. Ability to lead wisely
- F. Why was it so important to that the apostles not have this responsibility?
  - 1. They were to be servants of the Word.
  - 2. They were to be more given to prayer because of their ministry of the Word.
  - 3. If they took on this responsibility, they would be keeping others from serving through their gifts. (Rom. 12:4-8)

4. If they took on this responsibility, they would fall short of God's best in fulfilling their own ministry and the advance of the gospel would be hindered.
5. What should be the focus of the pastors in our church? (2 Tim. 4:1-5)
6. Who fulfills the responsibilities like these seven servants in our church? (2 Cor. 12:14-26)

**III. Serving biblically and sacrificially will propel our church to effective gospel ministry. (v 7)**

- A. How did the church respond to this early conflict?
  1. They faced a crisis—honestly.
  2. They sought a solution with biblical priority.
  3. In humility, the church came together to do their part.
  4. The mission of the church remained “in focus”
- B. What was the result of this conflict in the early church?
  1. The “Word of God continued to increase”
  2. The evangelism spread even faster.
  3. The world took notice and was drawn to the gospel.

**IV. Conclusion/Application**

- A. What are my gifts in the Body of Christ at Crossroad?
- B. Am I faithfully serving through the church?
- C. Am I a person of the right kind of character for excellent service?
  1. Reputation?
  2. Wisdom?
  3. Faith?
  4. Spirit-filled?
- D. Are we as a family of faith at Crossroad:
  1. Committed and focused on our mission?
  2. Living out that “belief” in real life “practice?”
  3. What adjustments need to be made in our beliefs and/or practices?