

# ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

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## Study 12: Growing Pains

**READ** Acts 6:1-8 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

The growth of the church and increasing numbers of impoverished believers require a restructuring of the community. In order to preserve unity and protect the priorities of the Word and prayer, the Twelve introduce a new group of leaders who are chosen for their godly character and are given distinct responsibilities.

**Big idea:** We learn how to preserve the unity of the body and protect the primary source of power as the church grows.

### Questions:

1. Who were the Hellenists and what was the dispute in v. 1 about?

How dangerous was the dispute to the unity of the church and why?

2. How is disunity antithetical to the gospel? See 2 Cor 5:18-20; John 17:20-23.

3. What did the Apostles consider their highest priority and why?

Should this remain the highest priority for the pastor and the church? Provide biblical references for your answer.

4. What were the requirements for the men chosen to lead the church in serving ministries and what does each requirement mean? Why do you think the Apostles “prayed and laid hands on them”?
5. Why did the apostles list these qualities and what does this tell you about the importance of perceived lesser significant ministries?
6. Did the problem of 6:1-6 stop the growth of the church (See v. 7)? If the problem had not been dealt with what might have been the result?
7. From your study, how important was the ministries of the seven to “serve tables” to the ministry of the Apostles and the growth of the church? How can you hinder or aid the unity and the growth of the church through your service or lack thereof?
8. Read 1 Cor 12:14-20. Are you fulfilling your role in the body of the church? How can a Christian know their spiritual gift(s) and begin using this in the church?

### STOP AND PRAY:

***Praise:** God for the gospel that reconciles sinners to God and to each other*

***Thank:** God for the faithful leaders He raises up to protect, grow and guide you*

***Pray:** for your faithfulness to maintain unity and serve the church with your gifts*