

Acts 6:1-7 **Appointment of Deacons**

The Need

¹ Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

The Recommendation

² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The Selection and Ordination

⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

The Result

⁷ Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ When the Church was practicing communal living with everyone sharing their possessions in common, they began to experience discrimination between, the Hebrews and the Hellenists. [Acts 6:1]
 - ✧ The Hebrews whose families had faced the influence of foreign powers called Hellenism and held fast to their Jewish roots and traditions.
 - ✧ As opposed to the Hellenists whose families fell under the influence of Hellenism and gave up their Jewish traditions to save their lives under the assault of the Greeks and Syrians 332 BC to 140 BC.
 - ✧ The effects of Hellenism are still felt around the world today.
- ✚ In order to establish equal and fair distribution of support between the two groups of believers, the Apostles called for seven men to be appointed to oversee the distribution. [Acts 6:2-3]
 - ✧ Qualifications for the positions were:
 - ✧ Good Reputation
 - ✧ Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom
- ✚ The reason for the appointment of these overseers was to free the Apostles for their greater calling: "**But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.**" [Acts 6:4]
- ✚ The multitude agreed and set forward seven qualified men:
 - ✧ **Stephen**, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. [Acts 6:5, 8-15, 7:1-60]
 - ✧ Philip, [Acts 6:5, 8:5-13, 26-40, 21:8]
 - ✧ Prochorus
 - ✧ Nicanor,
 - ✧ Timon,
 - ✧ Parmenas,
 - ✧ Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch.

- ✧ The Apostles prayed and laid their hands on the appointees. [\[Acts 6:6\]](#)
- ✧ The result of the appointments was fruitful among the **people** and the **Priests**: Then the word of God spread, and the **number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem**, and a **great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.** [\[Acts 6:7\]](#)