

The Unstoppable Gospel
8. Unhindered by Division (Acts 6v1-7)

John Percival

Introduction

- *Feeling overwhelmed?*
- **Three lessons** for us as a church:

A complex PROBLEM (v1)

- Growth
- Grumbling

A practical SOLUTION (v2-6)

- The apostles' proposal
- The church's response
- The application for us

An exciting RESULT (v7)

- The word grows (and grumbling doesn't!)

Conclusion

Acts 6v1-7 (NIV)

¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.