

Growing Pains Acts 6:1-7

1. We should celebrate gospel-centered church growth (6:1a, 7)

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number... (1a)

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. (7)

2. We should expect problems when the church grows (6:1b-6)

... a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

3. When the church grows, we must protect biblical priorities, make wise adjustments, and share the ministry – all in a spirit of love. (6:2-6)

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1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

4. We should see growth problems as opportunities for more gospel-centered growth (6:7)

⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.