



HEBRON

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Dr. Nathan Neufang

## **PRESERVING GOSPEL UNITY**

### **Acts 6:1-7**

**Passage in a Sentence:** God gives the church godly leaders who help preserve gospel-centered unity through serving.

- I. **APPOINT GODLY LEADERS WHO WORK TO PRESERVE UNITY WHEN THREATS ARISE.**
  - a. Like the early church, we could face threats to unity around the Gospel.
    - i. We could face the threat of mistreatment.
    - ii. We could face the threat of not meeting needs.
    - iii. We could face the threat of not serving the Word.
    - iv. We could face the threat of not dealing with issues.
  - b. Like the early church, the primary need for the church is the Word of God.
  - c. Like the early church, we need godly leaders who will address pressing needs.
    - i. Though the office of deacon is not clearly stated here, we see men who are chosen to serve (deacon) the tables.
  - d. What does this mean for deacons within our faith family?
    - i. Deacons are men of good character. (1 Timothy 3:8-13)
    - ii. Deacons identify and meet needs within our faith family.
    - iii. Deacons prove to be shock absorbers for conflicts that could threaten unity around the Gospel.
    - iv. Deacons are lead servants for our faith family.
  
- II. **ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S DESIGN FOR LEADERS WHO SERVE THE TABLES AND SERVE THE WORD.**
  - a. The service of the seven men allowed the apostles to teach the Word.
  - b. When the Word is served the entire faith family flourishes.
  - c. The numbers increased because the faith family was functioning correctly.
    - i. Tangible needs were met.
    - ii. Spiritual needs were met.
    - iii. Both serving tables and serving the Word is important. There is a difference in function not in status.