

**Acts Week 10 | The Church: Christ's Body**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
**Sunday 22nd March 2009**

There was an increase in number of people – things were happening and there was a sense of life in the church. It was awesome. They were accomplishing the great commission. Speak about mission, our aim to take the gospel to every person.

**Acts 6.1-7:** They became the church. What is the church? **Body, Bride, Army, Family of God, counter cultural, grace, firm on truth, a place of love etc.**

**Matthew 16.18:** The church is what Jesus is building. Satan attempts to destroy, but doesn't.

**Jesus' mission is to save the world through the church** (Eph 3.10). He came to earth to save us, reconcile us to Him, sort out our lives and He uses us to bring his message to the world. The Church! **Ambassadors for Christ!** This is why we exist.

As it keeps growing there are changes that happen. We don't stay in diapers, things change, and this is one of those changing shifts in the early church. **le when we started our HG..**

## **1. Deal with problems as they arise (6.1)**

A **complaint** arose. The problems of life and growth! No church is perfect. "if we could only be like the early church!" Need to allow each other grace (Corinthians, Galatians, Acts 5 and 6).

**You may not be a regular church goer thinking that church is for good people.** It's not. You may feel disqualified to come. 'I'm too sick to go to the doctor.. I'll wait til I get better..'

**We will always have broken people here,** and we are to love them until they get healed.

People are often disappointed with Christians because their expectations of them are higher. We should be gracious as Christ has been gracious to us.

A complaint **arose!** You should speak about it, to the right person (Matt 18).

**Racial issues.** Remember our primary culture is Kingdom and trumps all other culture. Culture – the propensity for us to offend one another. **Speak the truth in love.**

Notice what they didn't do: **Didn't ignore, didn't let it continue, didn't get distracted!**

## **2. They realized that not everyone can do everything!**

As a church grows, there are diverse needs that need to be met. But the apostles realized that they personally couldn't do everything themselves!

This passage is widely regarded as the first deacons. Bible speaks in Phil 1 of offices of elders and deacons. Elders (3 words) Authority for people and God. Deacons: Practicals and people. Saints, all but not with authority.

If we aren't careful churches can be an inch wide but a mile deep, or vice versa. If it's all spiritual, no practical, it's a disaster. If it's all practical but no spirit, it's dead. **We want both.**

Elders need to be in word and prayer. Else churches die. People need to be fed.

It's only going to happen when we become the body and do our part. **1 Cor 12:** Elaborate.

**Your role doesn't have to stay that way forever!** Jesus said that if you are faithful with little, you will be entrusted with much! (Luke 19.17) This is what happened with Stephen, Philip etc.

This role isn't reduced to a Sunday 90 minute window! Shine a light! **Find a window! Saints!**

Roles goes wrong when: We see one part as being more important than another, or we do more than our role (burn out).

### **3. Be full of faith**

**Romans 12.6:** We use our gift in proportion to our faith. Faith is the X Factor on your gift. Do you go about your day and life with a sense of God being with you? Seeing the impossible?

Accomplishing the great commission is not going to happen in our own strength. **Rom 4!**

We need to be a people of faith who believe God's word.

### **4. Be full of the Holy Spirit**

In the book of Acts they were regularly filled again and again.

Are you close to Jesus? **Connected to the Head?** Are you being led by the Holy Spirit?

This also speaks of not being traditional, stuck in our ways, but in the new way of the Spirit.

***We need to be a flexible people.***

### **5. The growth that followed**

**“The Word of God continued to increase and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests because obedient to the faith”.**

This is our desire! We want to see the word of God growing in Singapore, we want to see you filled with Christ, loving Him, mature, standing firm etc. We want to be a church that recognizes why we exist and is faithful to Him who has called us.

When we all play our part, we become the church, glorious and mighty, in love with God's people, existing for the sake of others, close to Jesus and on His mission for this city.