

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Acts 6:1-7

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, 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.

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.

Study Guide 4 December 2011 – Community on Mission



Summary

Jesus called us to be on mission. He also called us to be a community. These two things are meant to go hand in hand, although often one is sacrificed in favour of the other. All churches face this, just like the Acts church.

The main challenge of mission is the feeling of being overlooked in an ever-larger community. How do we keep doing our mission without neglecting community? First, they did not abandon mission to try and fix community. Second, they spoke honestly about it, and did not hide their feelings. Third, they increased their organization. Fourth, they increased their faith levels. Fifth, they increased being Spirit-led. Sixth, they increased their hospitality. Seventh, they pull together culturally. Eighth, they increased the number of leaders. Ninth, they increased responsibility.

Responsibility means that people show up, serve, own what we do and start to take initiative, just as Titus did (2 Cor 8:16,17,23).

Key points

Effective and balanced community and mission is part of the work of the gospel and is the glory of Christ.

Questions

- >>Why does God care so much about community and mission?
- >>How do community and mission work together?
- >>What does God think my place in community and mission in terms of RHC should be?
- >>What can I do to help push RHC's community and mission forward?

Final thoughts

Community and mission are difficult to balance. Let us take the direction the early church did and glorify God with a missional, loving community in church.