

# Harmony!



**Text: Acts 6:1-7**

## **I. Introduction**

- I have just a one-word title for the message I'm preaching today and next Sunday, and that word is "Harmony!"

## **II. Why We Need Harmony In The Church**

- We need to love one another
- You don't have to agree with someone and don't have to get along to love one another
- If harmony is left out, all works of the church are negated
- Important qualities of a growing church – 1) planning 2) dynamic programs (we need programs for evangelism, youth, seniors, Sunday School, worship, family life, missions)
- If you have all these kinds of programs, but don't have harmony – you ain't got nothing
- If a church never has a problem, you really have something to worry about
- If a church is serving Christ, Satan can't stand it, so he attacks
- If a church never has problems, you're not serving Christ

## **III. God Does Not Bless A Contentious Church**

- Fighting always voids our testimony to the rest of the church
- Only harmony makes it possible for the spirit of God to flow through a church
- Church leaders must respond to protect harmony
- In the early church, harmony restored by the apostles
- Widows were being ignored by the church, which included the apostles
- Sometimes people do get overlooked
- The congregation chose the first deacons to look after the widows
- It is wise to solve problems and have reasonable people help solve problems
- The widows were Greeks, Greek men became deacons
- With Jesus, harmony in His Body, the Church, was a top priority
- This is well illustrated in His final prayer in [John 17](#)

- It is rank hypocrisy to solve world problems when we cannot solve problems with relationships
- **Proverbs 6:17**
- Sometimes changes need to be made; sometimes apologies need to be made; sometimes even confrontation must occur; sometimes church discipline must occur; sometimes compromise must occur, sometimes a little, sometimes a lot
- When there is discord among the church, its mission is not spread
- Discord kills evangelism, it kills individuals
- **Galatians 5:13-15**
- Harmony is a rare commodity in church
- Satan is the author of all discord

#### **IV. Four Weapons Satan Uses Against Us To Threaten The Harmony Of The Lord's Church Are:**

##### **1) A Philosophy That Constantly Promotes Change Just For Change's Sake**

- Some want to do something different for shock value
- We need to always focus on doing for Jesus, not ourselves
- **2 Timothy 4:3-5**
- We need to stay with His Word
- Some believe only what they want to hear

##### **2) The Deadly Spirit Of Legalism**

- "The more rules, the better"
- Some never want to change
- The spirit of legalism can become so tight and so restricting even the Holy Spirit of God is restricted
- Be careful to not allow love and tolerance
- The Pharisees forgot all about these
- Jesus' harshest words were scathing denunciations for intolerant religious leaders
- The question needs to be asked – is the Lord Jesus Christ glorified by the church's actions?
- The legalist presumes to speak for God; and he does so, NOT according to the Word of God, but by his own, personal opinions
- **Romans 14** highlights disagreements over meat
- **Romans 14:12** – reminds us that each must give an account of *himself* to God, we cannot give an account for anyone else
- **Romans 14:13** – reminds us that we must not judge one another
- **Romans 14:19** – reminds us to build up one another

## V. **Conclusion**

- May God bless the harmony and the unity of His Body here!