

FATHER'S DAY
"The Kind of Men God Uses"
Acts 6:1-15

June 15, 1986

INTRODUCTION

1. The beginning of the Christian church was filled with excitement--growth, supernatural displays, and high drama.
2. But there was also, amid the spiritual victories, much of ordinary routine. It is at this point that God showed the kind of men required for assembly concerns.
3. There were three reasons which caused the needed men to surface:
 - a. New Converts The influx of new believers brought certain new practical problems. Note the growth (4:4; 5:14).
 - b. New Groups "Hebrews" were native to the land, spoke Aramaic (cognate of Hebrew), and used the Hebrew Scriptures. "Hellenists" were Greek-cultured Jews, spoke Greek, and used the Septuagint (LXX) as their Scriptures. It was the Hellenists who thought their widows were being neglected.
 - c. New Concerns The apostles prime responsibility was the Word in preaching and teaching (v. 4). The need to help the growing congregation was a new factor (vv. 1, 2).
4. Now, the men to be selected to help in the assembly are of the same character needed in our homes. It is, therefore, proper to look at their description and cry aloud to God to give us husbands, fathers, and male church leadership of this sort--just like in the early Christian church (v. 3).

1. BORN AGAIN MEN

This thought is derived from the prepositional phrase "among you." The observant look, inspection, or selection (so for "look") was to be limited to those who belonged to the Church. This means they were men who repented (2:38), received the Word (2:41), and had been added to the church (2:47). That's a prime concern for a home--a saved, born again, added to the church Father! This means one who has a clear testimony to the saving grace of God and gives evidence in his life of a true change of heart.

2. HONEST MEN

The verb used here is a present passive participle of a word meaning "witness," hence, attested or men

having witness borne them. The thought is of men with a good reputation. It is possible to have a good reputation in the church and a bad one in the world or vice versa. This is so important in a home--is a man respected? Is he consistent in his Christian living? Is he god-fearing and reliable? Is he of spiritual and moral integrity?

3. FULL OF THE SPIRIT MEN

Twice this concept is mentioned (vv. 3, 5). This is the supreme qualification. If a man claims this, he isn't. One infallible test is available--Gal. 5:22, 23. Popularity, good looks, seniority, ability are not necessary, but spirituality is! Oh, for fathers, men who walk by the Spirit and do not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).

4. WISDOM MEN

Knowledge is what a man accumulates, but wisdom is how he uses it. It is discernment, spiritual insight. Scripture is clear about wisdom (James 3:13-18). If it is lacking, ask God (James 1:5). Surely if there is anything so needful for a family today, it is a wise father (cf. 1 Kgs 3:5-9).

5. FAITH MEN

The concern here is faithfulness as well as a man of trust in the Lord. Fidelity is indeed rare, but desperately needed in the home. This promotes optimism, expectancy, and enthusiasm. What sort of men this includes is carefully noted in Scripture (Heb. 11).

CONCLUSION

These are general, but very specific characteristics our husbands, men, and leaders in church need to emulate. This will not mean all will be the same. There will always be variety and uniqueness (7 men). Wives and children must not say, "if only dad were like Mr. ?." No, God has all kinds of husbands, dads, men. Each has his own part to play and home to lead--all to God's glory (1 Cor. 12:4-17). Amen.