



**ROOTS AND REMEDIES OF RACISM:  
Racism Results in Inequality and Division**

Acts 6:1-7 CSB  
Min. Brian Williams

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."  
~Martin Luther King Jr.

**INTRODUCTION**

Acts 6:1-7 - early church's approach to tackling inequality, unity, and justice via fair food distribution to widows.

Apostles delegate to seven reliable men:

- † Restoring harmony
- † Enabling apostles to concentrate on spiritual duties.

Today, we study this passage and extract valuable lessons.

**POINT 1: STRUGGLES IN THE CHURCH - Acts 6:1 CSB**

Disciples were increasing in number:

- Complaints arose
- Growing Pains
- Here is early church response!

**The Issue...**

- Hellenistic Jewish widows were overlooked in daily food distribution!
- Hellenistic Jews:
  - Greek cultural and linguistic background
  - Felt marginalized in comparison to Hebraic Jews.

**Inequality and Division...**

- Cultural differences then mirror racial and ethnic disparities today.
- Certain groups of people in the church have historically faced similar challenges.
- Certain groups of people contend with inequality and discrimination.

## ECF Mission

“Picking Up the Broken Pieces in the Lives of People” speaks directly to:

- † We as a church must have the mind of Christ.
- † We as a church must demonstrate His love towards anyone we encounter.
- † We as a church must disregard race, station in life, or life issues!

## The Aim of This Passage and Message:

- † Treat people fairly.
- † Be a voice for the marginalized, disadvantaged, and vulnerable in society.
- † 1 Timothy 5:3 tells us to support genuinely needy widows.
- † James 1:7 tells us to look after orphans and widows.

We must...

- Stand up for and support the marginalized
  - Be a voice for the voiceless [using our privilege and platform to amplify the voices of those who may not be heard otherwise].
  - Advocate for the rights and well-being of others, [particularly those disenfranchised who face systemic barriers].
  - God expects us to be the remedy for racism, hatred, and bigotry!
  - Be hope for the hopeless!
  - Offer support, empathy, and resources to marginalized [people experiencing inequalities].
  - [Our actions must achieve optimism, possibilities, and a more equitable and inclusive society.]
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## POINT 2: SEEKING UNITY WITH FAIRNESS - Acts 6:2 CSB

### The Solution

- † Address the issue.
- † Seek unity and justice!

*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, and the black church stands as a beacon of hope in the fight against inequality.” ~Martin Luther King Jr.*

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## POINT 3: SERVE SELFLESSLY - Acts 6:3 CSB

### The Selection - Characteristics Needed...

- Good Reputation
  - Spirit Filled
  - Wisdom
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## POINT 4: SPIRIT-LED DECISION MAKING - Acts 6:4 CSB

### Study and Prayer

- We must devote ourselves
- We must pray before the Lord and seek his face in his word.
- We must secure justice and equality.

*“Prayer and the study of the Bible are the foundational pillars of our movement for civil rights. Through prayer, we find the strength to stand against injustice, and through the wisdom of Scriptures, we uncover the timeless truths that guide our path towards equality and justice.” ~Unknown*

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## POINT 5: SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING - Acts 6:5-6 CSB

### Synergism in the Early Church

- † Supported and empowered individuals to address practical needs.
  - † Emphasized unity, spiritual discernment, and the transfer of authority through prayer and commissioning.
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## POINT 6: THE BENEFITS OF ADDRESSING THE ISSUES - Acts 6:7 CSB

### Obedience

The Resolve - Word of God spread, the church grew, and leaders became obedient to the faith!

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## CONCLUSION

- † Let’s celebrate Black History Month by standing for justice, unity, and love.
  - † Let’s embrace diversity, pursue justice, build unity, and engage in outreach.
  - † Let’s reflect Christ’s heart in the world.
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