**Acts 6:1**

\*Probably later in the summer of AD 30-31 another church issue developed. The large Baptist assembly continued to grow, from the 120 original members to the 3000 Pentecost conversions to the 5000 men to probably 20,000 members in Jerusalem.

\*The growing number of disciples included widows of the Grecians (Jewish widows who embraced Greek language and customs (Acts 2:5) brought by Alexander the Great [323 BC; see Dan. 8:21]) and widows of the Hebrews (Jewish widows who retained the old ways of Hebrew language and customs).

\*The Grecian widows “*were neglected”* (*paratheoreo* [1x]) in the daily *“ministration”* (***diakonia*** [“through the dust”]) in spite of Ex. 22:22! Was this purposeful?

**Acts 6:2**

\*The 12 leaders (including Matthias but not Paul [!]) of the Baptist assembly needed to delegate the ministry of widows to others (cf. Eph. 4:11-12)! The main ministry of the apostles/bishops was *“the word of God”* (I Tim. 3:2; 4:13; II Tim. 2:2; 4:2) and not *“serve”* (***diakonien***) tables.

**Acts 6:3**

\*The pastoral counsel was for congregational decision by examining the men of the assembly relative to quantity, gender, integrity, and spiritual wherewithal. They thought seven men could minister to the number of widows in a church of 20,000. How many widows could one man be assigned to minister?

\*The men needed to have an honest report (since dealing with widows and money), to be Spirit-filled, and have wisdom from maturity.

\*Paul gave the requirements for deacons (I Tim. 3:8-13); obviously this excluded “deaconesses” (*sic*) including Phebe (cf. Rom. 16:1).

\*The *“business”* (*chreia*) was “needful” business (cf. 2:45; 4:35). The “deacon board” consisted of the whole congregation! Unbiblical “deacon boards” hire and fire pastors in unbiblical Baptist churches!

\*The RCC developed 3 offices for church clergy including bishop, elder, deacon. The laity could not serve. Protestants and fundamental Baptists taught that deacons were essentially assistant pastors and that the laity still could not serve. The sole purpose of deacons is to help widows (cf. I Tim. 5:3-16)!

**Acts 6:4**

\*The apostles/pastors reiterated their spiritual *“ministry”* (***diakonia***) for the assembly: prayer (see 1:13-14; 3:1) and preaching/teaching the word (*logos*) of God! Pastor Peter understood the admonition of the Lord “to *‘feed’* the Lord’s *‘lambs’* and *‘sheep’*” (Jn. 21:15-17; cf. also I Pet. 5:2). This required prepared and diligent study (II Tim. 2:15).

**Acts 6:5**

\*The Baptist office of *“deacon*(*s*)” was established (see Phil. 1:1) by the congregation under the leadership of the spiritual leaders.

\*The qualified men with Greek names included Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and the Gentile Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch. Jewish and Gentile men ministering to Jewish widows!

**Acts 6:6**

\*The apostles received the appointed candidates from the congregation and prayed over them and laid hands on the seven deacons (cf. Acts 14:23).

**Acts 6:7**

 \*God honored their obedience to Scripture and gave a great number converts including Jewish priests.