

HOW TO START A REVOLUTION

Unity Trumps Everything

Acts 6:1-7

But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

Acts 6:1 New Living Translation

At this time there were two groups of people in the church . . .

1. Hellenistic Jews

- Had been scattered out of persecution (diaspora) around the known world and returned from there to Israel.
- They are not as connected family wise in Israel because of the diaspora.
- They were primarily Greek speaking.
- They had their own Greek speaking synagogues.
- Used the Greek translation of the Old Testament called "The Septuagint".
- They were more open to the world outside of Israel.

2. Hebraic Jews

- Roots in Israel.
- Spoke Aramaic.
- Held tightly to the original languages of the Old Testament . . . Hebrew.
- They had few interests outside of Israel.
- Generally speaking, the Hebraic Jews thought of themselves as a cut above the Hellenistic Jews.

. . . the Lord our God does not tolerate perverted justice, partiality, or the taking of bribes.

2 Chronicles 19:7

Partiality is an old English word for racism and prejudice. It means treating one group of people better than another group of people or treating one individual of a group of people better than other people who are not from that group.

"Racism is the most common sin in the world."

Rick Warren

SEVEN DEGREES OF PARTIALITY:

1. The Racist – Someone who hates, bullies or discriminates against another race, religion, class, level of education, culture etc.
2. The Bigot – Someone who believes stereotypes about a particular race or group of people, and belittles those other people.

3. The Avoider - Someone who is uncomfortable around people who aren't like them.

4. The Insensitive - Someone who is insensitive to what it is that hurts other people. They are insensitive to certain words, jokes, terms, attitudes or actions that hurt others.

5. The Apathetic - Someone who doesn't care about the racism and the prejudice all around them. They may even pretend it isn't there.

6. The Sensitive - Someone who is kind and inclusive. They care about others. They see past the differences or regard them as unimportant. They value people. They are sensitive and often hurt when racism in whatever form or degree is evidenced in their world.

7. The Reconciler - Someone who is an active bridge builder. They reflect true biblical values and respond by seeking to reconcile those living out partiality or experiencing partiality.

**"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."**

Jesus - Matthew 5:9

When Addressing a Challenge, Like the Apostles We Need to..

1. Identify the Problem:

. . . their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

Acts 6:1

Be willing to admit it.

Without humility there can never be unity.

2. Maintain Your Priorities:

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables . . . and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:2&4

Only do what only you can do.

3. Make a Wise Decision:

Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.

Acts 6:3

4. Invite Participation:

We will turn this responsibility over to them . . .

Acts 6:3-4

5. Watch God Bless:

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7