



**Acts: Turning the world
upside down.**

A Vine Needs A Trellis

Acts 6:1-7

5 Essential Elements of the Gospel

1. **The crucifixion:** whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. (vs 30)
2. **The resurrection:** The God of our fathers raised Jesus (vs 30)
3. **The Ascension:** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior (vs 31)
4. **Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins:** to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (vs 31)
5. **Gift of the Holy Spirit:** the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (vs 32)

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

- Acts 6:1-7





The basic work of any Christian ministry is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God's Spirit, and to see people converted, changed and grow to maturity in that gospel. That's the work of planting, watering, fertilizing and tending the vine. However, just as some sort of framework is needed to help the vine grow, so Christian ministries also need some structure and support. It might not be much, but at the very least, we need somewhere to meet, some Bibles to read from, and some basic structures of leadership within our group.

-Tony Payne and Colin Marshal, "The Trellis and the Vine", p. 8

Acts 6:1-7

- **Main Idea:** The Apostles established a few basic structures to support the growth of the Gospel and this enable the Gospel to grow and flourish.
- **vs 1:** The Problem
- **vss 2-6:** The Solution
- **vs 7:** The Result

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- Acts 6:1

2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- Acts 6:2-4

Acts 6: First Steps

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- 2. The Twelve Apostles called and lead this meeting and stated their role and task**
- 3. They elected 7 servants (deacons), who were respected men of good character and full of the Holy Spirit.**

Three Components of the Trellis

1. **Church:** The gathering together of the full number of disciples, or Christ-followers.
2. **Apostles:** Those men set apart to pray and minister the word.
3. **Deacons:** Those who practically serve the church.

Requirements for Membership at ICF

- 1. You have made a confession of Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Have been baptised, either as an infant or through believer's baptism as an adult.**
- 3. We have a membership covenant**

We voluntarily join ourselves together as a body of baptised believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, each person being committed to serve Christ and each other to the glory of God. Such a body of Christian believers is a local manifestation of the one universal Church of Jesus Christ. . . The government of this church is jointly vested in the body of baptised believers of whom it is comprised and their elected Pastor(s) and Elders. All officers, committees and agencies created and empowered by this church shall report to and be accountable to the membership of the church;

- Section 4, ICF Constitution.

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

- Acts 15:4

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- Titus 1:5

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

- Titus 1:5-9

New Testament Summary of Elders Task

- 1. Lead the church** (1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1–2)
- 2. Teach and preach the Word** (1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9)
- 3. Protect the church from false teachers** (Acts 20:17, 28–31)
- 4. Exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine** (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:13–17; Titus 1:9)
- 5. Visit the sick and pray** (James 5:14; Acts 6:4)
- 6. Model the faith** (Hebrews 13:7, 1 Peter 5:3)

25 But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Matthew 20:25-28

James 3:1

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Hebrews 13:17-18

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Role of Pastor (ICF Constitution)

- 1. Pastoral Oversight.**
- 2. Pulpit Ministry**
- 3. Direction of Public Worship.**
- 4. Elders & Ministry Group Leaders.**
- 5. The Ministries of the Church.**

Role of Elders (ICF Constitution)

1. To prayerfully guard and maintain the spiritual unity and purity of the church.
2. To exercise spiritual care and leadership on behalf of the members of the church in a spirit of love, integrity and wisdom.
3. To encourage the church to be a witness in the world to the saving grace of God revealed in Christ by personal example, spoken testimony and practical care.
4. To aid the Pastor in providing the ministry of the Word.

Role of Elders (ICF Constitution)

5. To serve as a council of advice in conference with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the work and welfare of the church.
6. To aid the Pastor in the exercise and implementation of church discipline when and where indicated, being guided by the principles of the Word of God as set forth in passages such as Matthew 18:15-18, 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11 and 1 Timothy 5:1-25.
7. To provide or review nominations for persons to fill the various offices in the church in conjunction with the Pastor and, when necessary, the Church Council (ministry leadership forum)

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- Acts 6:5-6

Deacons at ICF

- **Children**
- **Youth**
- **Women**
- **Men**
- **Worship**
- **Translation**
- **Welcome/Connections**
- **Missions**
- **Prayer**
- **Finances**
- **Small Groups**

Deacons are persons called by the Holy Spirit and appointed by the Eldership and the church to attend to and implement the practical and administrative needs of the church. They work in harmony with and under the direction of the Eldership, assisting them in fulfilling the goals and mission of the church.

-ICF, Constitution

Role of Deacons (ICF Constitution)

- To prayerfully and practically serve the church in its various ministries by implementing the agreed plans and policies approved by the Eldership.
- The various Ministry Groups and standing Committees of the church which are concerned with administrative matters will normally be led and chaired by Deacons.
- To serve on the Church Council as a council of advice in conference with the Eldership in all matters pertaining to the work and welfare of the church.

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