

Prejudice in the Early Church

Acts 6

1. Which widows were being neglected (v. 1)?

Why do you suppose this happened?

2. The names of the men chosen indicate that they were Greek-speaking (v. 5). Why was this important?

3. Why was it also important that the men were chosen by the whole group (v.5)?

4. What do we learn about Stephen in verses 8-15?

5. Who began to oppose Stephen (vv. 8-10)?

What motivations might the other Greek-speaking people have had in opposing him?

6. Stephen was brought to trial before the Sanhedrin, the high court of the Jews (v. 12). Why might a Grecian Jew have had a problem getting a fair trial before a jury of Hebraic Jews?

7. What similarities and dissimilarities exist in the racial situation within the church today?

8. Why do you think the cultural and racial elements in this passage are often not discussed?

What does this say about our own sensitivity to racial and cultural issues?

9. What kinds of factors determine whether a church is meeting the needs of different groups of people?

10. How might churches with different racial makeups relate or form partnerships?

11. How would our churches and our society be different if everyone was empowered for leadership as exemplified in this passage?