

## Study Notes based on Sunday morning 17 March 2019

### Trouble inside the Church – Bad Behaviour – John Smith

Acts 6:1-7; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 15:1-4

1. Read Acts 6:1-7 – What observations do you have on this incident? Did the apostles handle this wisely? Some people believe this is a pattern to be observed throughout the centuries of the church, separation between spiritual leadership and practical tasks. Elders and deacons. What do you think? What was the result? Does this teach us anything for today? Have we seen examples of favouritism or partiality expressed in church life?
2. Read the Grim Tale of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. What do you think was going on here? Why were Ananias and Sapphira treated so harshly? What is the underlying issue which could helpfully inform our church relationships today? Can you think of any contemporary examples (not the dropping down dead bit, but the hypocrisy/pretence)?
3. Read Acts 15:1-4. Can you think of theological or cultural issues which have threatened or even caused division in a local church? How do you respond to the message which was to be sent to the leaders in Antioch? Paul later insisted that Timothy should be circumcised. Was this inconsistent or was a consistent principle being applied? When the Philippian jailer said 'what must I do to be saved?', Paul's answer was to the point – no mention of circumcision or any other 'extras'. What 'extras' have you come across over the years?
4. Read the following passages which suggest how we are supposed to behave within the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:2-5; John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 3:17.
5. How do you respond to the idea of a local church being a pilot plant for the Kingdom of God?

John S Smith 20 March 2019