

May 6, 2018
Acts 6:1-7
Sermon Notes

What does the early church teach us about how to deal with internal threats to the existence of the local church:

1. Remember they are normal

1 Peter 5:8 ESV

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Matthew 16:18 ESV

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

James 4:1 NLT

1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?

What does the early church teach us about how to deal with internal threats to the existence of the local church:

2. Remember what's important

2 Timothy 4:2 ESV

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

1 Peter 4:10 NLT

10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Matthew 22:37-39 ESV

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

What does the early church teach us about how to deal with internal threats to the existence of the local church:

3. Remember to divide the labor

Ephesians 4:11-12

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

1 Peter 4:11 NLT

11 Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Leaders should:

- a. Have a good reputation
- b. Be Spirit-filled
- c. Be wise

What if it's not a building or an attendance record that is at the core of God's heart? What if it's how we love?