

Be Like... Steve!

Acts 6.1-15

Focus: to call us to follow the example of Stephen in protecting the unity of the church by Christlike service and sacrifice.



John Piper has a helpful article on the false accusations brought against Stephen in Acts 6:8-15:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/stephens-crime-jesus-will-destroy-the-temple>

Discussion:

- Read 6.1-7 aloud and then have your group share what might have underlay the division in the church here? What might have happened if it went unaddressed? How are similar factors pressing the church to divide today? How have you seen racial/cultural differences divide the church?
- How does the unity or disunity of the church affect her growth?
- Why did the apostles not just jump in and deal with this themselves? How does your ministry of service accomplish a similar thing for our elders at NW? Are you convinced that your service matters? How might you serve in a way that protects these priorities for our elders?
- Read 6.8-15. Does it mess with you that Stephen suffers for serving so well? What do we learn about suffering from passages like this and the end of ch. 5?
- Compose a list of Stephen's exemplary traits from ch. 6. Which one is most challenging for you? How might you "imitate him as he imitates Christ?"
- Pray for the unity of our church body. Pray for our leaders to have wisdom like the apostles to protect this unity and the vital priorities of the Word and prayer.

2014-2015 Acts Focus

To advance our church in our knowledge and experience of the Spirit in such a way that we will increasingly embrace His ministry in and through us, especially in witness.