

**SENT: *We Are Gracists***  
**Acts 6:1-6**

- i. This phrase, *the number of disciples was increasing...*
- ii. One verse a buzz-kill and six verses a transformation.
- iii. From crummy news to good news.

**HOW TO BE SIMPLE GRACISTS IN A WORLD OF US VERSUS THEM**

**I. BEING SENT CAN EASILY GO UP IN FLAMES (verse 1)**

- A. The Greek speaking Hebrew widows felt shorted in the daily food distribution.
- B. Hebrew speaking widows may have been given preference.
- C. The unity of the community was in peril.
- D. Sometimes a movement is thwarted  
from external factors and sometimes it is thwarted by internal factors.
- E. The movement was in peril because of an us versus them mentality, an internal versus external struggle based on racial preference.
- F. Gracists define their core issues honestly based on Scriptural teaching not ideology.

**II. BEING SENT CAN ALWAYS BE ENHANCED (verses 2-6)**

- A. Gracists work toward consensus and common unity based on the teachings of Christ.
- B. Jesus says in John 13:34-35, "*A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.*"
- C. A decision that pleased everyone: some elders would pray and focus on the word and other elders are designated to wait on tables (now called deacons).
- D. This was not a hierarchy where one leads with the head and one leads with the Heart. Rather, the head, the heart, the whole body (community) move as ONE.
- E. The structure serves the ministry. The ministry doesn't fit the structure.
- F. There was one community where racism was transformed into gracism.

**BIG IDEA:** Gracists work issues so that the movement can continue to go forth.  
Simplicity brings clarity. Clarity breeds simplicity. Simplicity and clarity result in transformation