When the Church Grew Greatly
Acts 6:7

Introduction:
A. Jerusalem church was united and growing from the start (Acts 2:41, 46-47; 4:4, 24; 5:12,14).
B. Jerusalem church illustrates when the church are more likely to be united and growing.

Discussion:
I. When Members Were Really Converted.
A. They had a change of heart.
   1. Toward Christ (2:36).
   2. Toward their sin (Acts 2:36-37).
B. They had a change of relationship.
   2. To the world (Acts 2:40).
II. When Members Were Steadfastly Serving.
A. In public worship (Acts 2:42).
B. In daily service (Acts 2:46, 47; 5:28, 42; 6:1).
III. When Members Were Solving Problems.
A. The problem of internal sin (5:1-11).
   1. God directly removed this leaven.
   2. God directs churches to do it (1 Cor. 5:6-7).
B. The problem of internal unrest (6:1).
   1. Apostles solved this by addressing legitimate complaints.
   2. Such unrest needs to be stopped.
      a. By addressing legitimate complaints.
      b. Or dealing firmly with illegitimate complainers.
IV. When Members Were Effectively Organized.
A. Jerusalem organized under apostolic oversight.
   1. Were only universal overseers the church ever had.
   2. Elders mentioned about other churches formed (cf. 11:30; 15:2).
B. Effectively and efficiently organized for growth (6:1-6).
   1. Work load properly passed around.
   2. Each “office” expected to “major” in its field.
   3. Yet not so organized to remove individual initiative (cf. Acts 8:1)
V. When Members Were Deeply Convicted.
A. Had to speak the truth (4:20, 21).
   1. Not overly concerned with technique — had to speak it (cf. “Durty Skkunk”)
   2. Not over concerned with consequences — had to speak it.
B. Believed it was the only way to be saved (4:12)
C. Believe it was an honor to suffer shame for His name (5:41,42).

Conclusion:
A. What would happen here if we had all these things going for us?
B. Why not begin by doing your part today?