



## Why was the Jerusalem congregation extremely successful?

- Key 1) Devoted to God.
- Key 2) Of One Heart & Mind.
- Key 3) Always Evangelizing.
- Key 4) Serving One Another.
- Key 5) Blessing The Entire Body With Their Abilities.

### Key #6: They Were R To R Problems.

You've heard it said, "*an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of medicine.*"

Just as a little string can guide the growth of a baby tree, it takes bulldozers to tear down a grown tree. "*It's easier to start right to stay right than to get right.*"

Key Principle: when problems arise, we must wisely "*nip them in the bud.*"

Let's notice three categories of problems the Jerusalem brethren faced and quickly dealt with to preserve their identity, encourage the body, and maintain growth.

### I. S Problems: Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5:1-14

A. How was their relationship with God? (Acts 5:4)

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B. Choosing to sin spreads Satan's influence. (Acts 5:3; I Cor.5:6-7; Acts 5:11-14)

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C. Sin is a choice. (Acts 5:4)

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D. How did the Jerusalem congregation deal with this sin? (Acts 5:2-3)

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#### Key Side Notes:

1. This extraordinary event established principle, not precedent.
  2. The miraculous factor is no longer at play.
  3. Peter only rebuked Simon. (Acts 8:19-24) (cf. Nadab & Abihu in Leviticus 10)
  4. Jesus taught our pattern: Matt.18:15-17. (cf. Gal.6:1, Matt.7:3, II Thess.3:15.)
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## II. Problems: Widows Overlooked. Acts 6:1-7

A. Consider: The native *Hebrew* Christians heard the complaint of the *Hellenist* widows and promptly found a solution.

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B. As the needs were met, the congregation grew stronger. Notice those who were appointed. (**Acts 6:5**)

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C. The Jerusalem brethren were godly in spirit and conduct. (**Acts 6:7**)

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## III. Designing Problems: Such As Circumcision. Acts 15:4-35

A. These brethren overcome the issue, not by dismissing this “salvation issue,” but by designing it. (**Acts 15:6-7; Gal.5:2-4**)

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B. They believed God’s will could be heard, studied, and understood. They considered the Spirit’s Word through Peter (**Acts 15:7-11**), Barnabas and Paul (**Acts 15:12**), and James (**Acts 15:13-18**). We can understand the Lord’s Will. (**Eph.5:17**).

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C. They kept focus on the principle issue.

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D. Be encouraged: the result of collective “Bible Study” was unity. (**Acts 15:22**)

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## Conclusion:

We are at a crossroads. If we resist growth to avoid problems, we will plateau, and eventually die. If we mimic Jerusalem’s example, we can set this area of the world ablaze with God’s gospel.

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