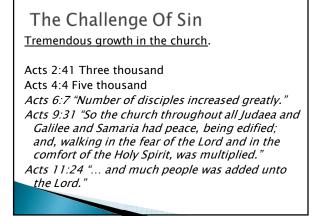
Real Challenges In The Early Church



The Challenge Of Sin

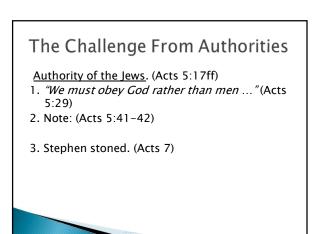
Acts 5:1-11 First recorded sin in the church.

- 1. Peter exposed their sin and they both died.
- 2. Acts 5:11 "And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all that heard these things."

The Challenge Of Sin

- <u>1 Corinthians 5:1-7 Even a small amount of</u> leaven would contaminate the whole lump.
- 1. Note: verses 3–4 By the authority of Christ, the guilty was to be disciplined.
- 2. Keep the church morally pure. Ephesus. Revelation 2:2 Thyatira. Revelation 2:20 Sardis. Revelation 3:4

The Challenge From Authorities <u>Authority of the Jews</u>. (Acts 4:5–6) Court put on trial ... *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to hearken unto you rather than unto God, judge ye*: for we cannot but speak *the things which we saw and heard."* (Acts 4:19–20; cf. 1 Peter 4:14–16)



The Challenge From Authorities

Authority of the Jews. (Acts 9:1ff)

• "But Saul, yet breathing threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord ..."

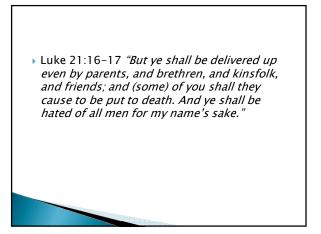
The Challenge From Authorities

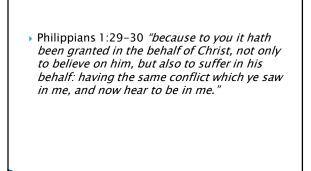
Authority of Herod. Acts 12:1–2 1. Death of James. 2. Arrest of Peter.

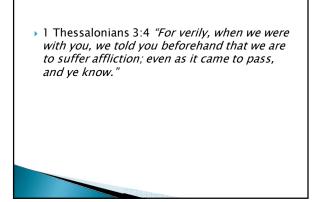
The Challenge From Authorities

Authority of the Magistrates in Philippi. (Acts 16:22ff)

- 1. Paul and Silas arrested, beaten, and imprisoned. (Acts 16:22ff)
- 2. Returned to Lydia's house. (Acts 16:35ff)







2 Timothy 1:8 "Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God"

- 2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
- Luke 22:33–34 "And he said unto him, Lord, with thee I am ready to go both to prison and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, until thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me."
- I Peter 4:16 "but if (a man suffer) as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name."

Acts 21:13 "Then Paul answered, What do ye, weeping and breaking my heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Application And Conclusion

- God wants people to confront sin.
- Discipline must be practiced to protect the church and save the soul of the one in sin.
- "We must obey God rather than men."
- When we feel isolated, even paralyzed, remember we are not alone. "Yet will I leave (me) seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal" (1 Kings 19:18)