

# Decision Making

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## *Lecture Outline* *Part 1 of 4*

### I. The Early Church Model

- A. The early spiritual leaders had to learn leadership \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:15, 2:41, 4:4).
- B. Two incidents, in particular, confronted them, one a practical issue, the other doctrinal.
  - 1. Acts 6:1–7
  - 2. Acts 15

### II. A Few Principles

- A. Good decision making helps to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ in the spread of the Word of God (Acts 6:1, 7).
- B. Wise decisions \_\_\_\_\_ God's people (Acts 15:22–23, 30–31).
- C. A problem cannot be solved unless the issues are clearly \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 18:13, 17).
- D. Problems that are public should \_\_\_\_\_ the congregation in the solution (Acts 6:3–5, Acts 15:12, 22).
- E. Some elders have the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ a decision better than others (Acts 15:13, 19–20, 22).
- F. Elders should take careful \_\_\_\_\_ when dealing with serious issues (Acts 15:13, 19–20, 22).
- G. Go to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the problem (Acts 15:1, Gal. 2:12).

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#### III. Handling Disagreements

A. Serious d\_\_\_\_\_ issues (Gal. 2:5, 11; Acts 20:28–30).

B. P\_\_\_\_\_ issues (1 Tim 1:3–4, Col. 2:18, Titus 1:10–11).

C. Differing p\_\_\_\_\_ (Phil. 2:2, Acts 15:39–40).

D. F\_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 10).

1. Fear of conflict (John 17:21, Acts 15:25, Acts 15:28)

2. Fear of what others may think—being a people pleaser

3. Fear of failure

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## **IV. A Policy for Disagreements**

- A. The importance of the elders' c\_\_\_\_\_
  
- B. The importance of p\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 16:18, John 12:31)
  
- C. The issue of p\_\_\_\_\_ decision making
  
- D. Ideas for a policy
  - 1. Most decisions pass on the basis of a consensus
  
  - 2. What is a consensus and how does it work?
  
  - 3. When one elder (or a minority) has a strong objection, wait one month.
  
  - 4. If still no consensus, shelve the issue for three months.
  
  - 5. In the case that serious doctrinal or core values/principles are an issue
  
- E. What about the idea of unanimity?

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## V. When Decision Making is Difficult

- A. Going against t\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 11:2)
  
- B. Going against an i\_\_\_\_\_ history
  
- C. Going against a few “s\_\_\_\_\_ men”
  
- D. When f\_\_\_\_\_ is involved
  
- E. When m\_\_\_\_\_ is involved (Phil. 2:1–4)

## VI. Conclusion