

Then pleased it the whole church ... – [Asaolu O. S.](#)

Sermon @ COC UNILAG [Nov 26, 2023]

Text: Acts 15:1-31 *emp.* 2-7,12-17,22-23 & 6:1-7

Introduction: There were problems and crises in the early church that had to be resolved. The way the leaders and members handled such challenges was remarkable in that collective decision-making and action was always utilized. No individual or group considered itself as superior to dictate or impose its opinion on others, effort was made to get everyone's contribution and support towards obtaining solutions. This admonition is to encourage us all to participate in Church Meetings and Activities, without shying from our roles or over-burdening few. The last Business- Meeting was not encouraging, nor the announcement of tasks few Sundays after.

Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. 3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. 4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. 5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. 6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. 7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe... 12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. 13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: 14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things... 22 **Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church,** to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: 23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, it is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 **And the saying pleased the whole multitude:** and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

In each case, the leaders involved the whole church to address a problem, sound men gave suggestions based on scripture, example or inference. The brethren argued but made a resolution, prayed and implemented their decision together. It led to church growth. No group averred they were NOT carried along. Everyone was pleased just as in Acts 1 when Judas was replaced. Heb 13:17 is about wise men leading (1 Cor 6:1-7) not 3 Jn 1:9-10.

Conclusion: Unity or one accord is based on mutual consideration and participation –1 Cor 12:13-27, Eph 4:16
As Corpers are resuming in NYSC Camp let Freshers be engaged here. [Watch video on [COC UNILAG Facebook Page](#)]