**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. June 18, 2017**

**Growing Pains**

ACTS 6:1-7

**Key truth:** How followers of Jesus Christ handle conflicts is an indicator to the world of our genuine love for one another. The world is watching….

**The Problem:**

1. The unity of church was in danger.

2. There is no growth without pain.

3. There is no maturity without conflict.

4. Partiality has no place in the church.

**The Solution:**

1. The church needs strong leadership if we are going to

 sustain spiritual and numerical vitality.

 A. Leadership is all about serving others.

2. Key ingredients for spiritual leadership:

 A. Character – This requires being known among the

 people as a person of integrity, honesty, and humility.

 B. Controlled by Spirit – The manifestation of the Spirit

 working in and through the person.

 C. Competency – wisdom to carry out the task assigned.

**The Outcome:**

1. When the physical and spiritual needs of the body are

 met you have a healthy church that can impact the

 community.

 A. The gospel was being proclaimed without prejudice.

 B. Religious opponents were becoming followers of

 Jesus Christ.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Don’t allow conflicts to hinder the work of God. Unity as followers of Christ is essential for our gospel witness.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

For the Week of June 18, 2017

Looking back at your notes from this weekend’s message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Have you ever had cultural differences in the church and how did you handle them?

How do you feel about conflict? Is it a good or bad thing? Why or why not?

Read Mark 10:35-45: Do you believe that in order to lead you must have a servant’s heart? Why or why not.

Read 1 Timothy 3:7: Why is the leaders reputation so important in the community of faith.

How does bad character affect the community of faith?

Read John 17:20-23, Psalm 133:1: Why is unity among believers such a powerful witness to the world?

Read Ephesians 2:14-18: What are some challenges we have to overcome to be a thriving witness to the world?

What is one thing you have taken away from these 10 Week sessions? How can we pray for you?