

February 4/5, 2006

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
The Response of “Stiff-Necked” People
Acts 6:8-7:60
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. What are the marks of a person who is closed-minded or unteachable?
2. What are the marks of a person who is learning and growing?
3. What causes us to become rigid and unteachable?
4. As a general rule, would you say most religious people are learning and growing or rigid and closed-minded? Why?

Bible Study

1. What do we know about Stephen from Acts 6:1-15?

Do you think it's good for leaders to start by “serving tables?” Why or why not?
2. How did the religious crowd respond to Stephen's powerful ministry?

Why do you think they responded that way?
3. In responding to the charges made against him by the Council, Stephen reviews the Old Testament story of the Hebrew people. What was his point? (Refer to Acts 7:1-50.)
4. What would it mean for us to become “stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears and always resisting the Holy Spirit?” (Read Acts 7:51-60.)

In what ways might we box God in with our religion today?
5. Contrast the religious leaders to Stephen as he is presented in this story. What made Stephen so radically different from the religious leaders of his day?

What will keep us from becoming “stiff-necked” and resistant to the Holy Spirit?

Application

1. Would you say right now in your faith walk you are more “stiff-necked” or more full of grace and the Holy Spirit’s power? Why?
2. What practical things can you do to be more like Stephen rather than like the religious leaders? Name at least three.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. If along the way you become “stiff-necked” over an issue in your faith walk, would you give your LifeGroup members permission to lovingly point this out to you in order that you might not find yourself resisting the Holy Spirit?